

# Clinical Gambling Screen

## Notes to Clinician:

The following pages contains the gambling screener and follow-up questions to be used to identify gambling problems outside a treatment setting. The word “gambling” is intentionally omitted because it tends to lower response rate among those who find it stigmatizing.

The screener is presented in three parts:

Part 1: Gambling activities and frequency chart (Nower, 2020);

Part 2: Modified version of the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen (BBGS, Gebauer et al, 2010);

Part 3: Problem Gambling Severity Index (PGSI, Ferris & Wynne, 2001), called "Gambling Perceptions" in this screen.

## Administration:

Screen all clients with the activities and frequency chart and the modified, three-question BBGS. If client endorses one or more high frequency gambling activity (once a week or more) or is positive to one question or more on BBGS, give the PGSI ("Gambling Perceptions").

PGSI scoring is as follows:

*Total Score of 0* = Non-problem gambling.

*Total Score of 1 or 2* = Low-risk gambler (Low level of problems with few or no identified negative consequences.)

*Total Score of 3 to 7* = Moderate-risk gambler (Moderate level of problems leading to some negative consequences.)

*Total Score of 8 or more* = High-risk gambler (Problem gambling with negative consequences and a possible loss of control.)

## Citations:

Ferris, J. A., & Wynne, H. J. (2001). *The Canadian problem gambling index* (pp. 1-59). Ottawa, ON: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse.

Gebauer, L., LaBrie, R., & Shaffer, H. J. (2010). Optimizing DSM-IV-TR classification accuracy: A brief biosocial screen for detecting current gambling disorders among gamblers in the general household population. *The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 55(2), 82-90.

Nower, L (2020). Gambling activities and frequency chart. New Brunswick, NJ: Author.

# Part 1: List of Leisure Activities

How often in the past year have you done each of the following activities?

	Not at all	Less than once a month	Once a month	2-3 times a month	Once a week	2-3 times a week	4+ times a week
Purchased a lottery, Powerball or Mega Millions ticket							
Purchased an instant scratch-off ticket							
Bought a ticket for raffle or drawing							
Played Bingo							
Wagered on sports							
Bet on horse racing at a track/off-track betting parlor							
Played live or tournament poker (excluding video poker)							
Played live casino table games, excluding poker (e.g. blackjack, roulette, craps, baccarat)							
Played daily fantasy sports							
Played games of skill for money (e.g. backgammon, mahjong, puzzles, word games, trivia, board games, strategy games, bridge)							
Traded cryptocurrencies (e.g., digital currency such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, Ripple)							
Played a slot machine							
Played a video poker or other card game machine							
Traded high-risk stocks (e.g. options, margins, futures)							
Bet on e-Sports							

## Part 2

Please respond **yes** or **no** to the following questions:

1. Have you ever become restless or irritable or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on any of those activities?
2. Have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you spent on any of the activities above?
3. Had you had such financial trouble as a result of any of the above listed activities that you had to get help with living expenses from family, friends or welfare?

# Part 3: Gambling Perceptions

We would now like to learn a little be more about your perceptions of your wagering and betting behavior, which is also referred to as gambling.

## Thinking about the past 12 months, how often...

	Never	Sometimes	Most of the time	Always
Have you bet more than you really could afford to lose?				
Have you needed to gamble with larger amounts of money to get the same excitement?				
Have you gone back another day to try to win back the money you lost?				
Have you borrowed money or sold anything to get money to gamble?				
Have you felt that you might have a problem with gambling?				
Have people criticized your betting, or told you that you have a gambling problem, whether or not you thought it was true?				
Have you felt guilty about the way you gamble or what happens when you gamble?				
Have you felt that gambling has caused you any health problems, including stress or anxiety?				
Have you felt your gambling has caused financial problems for you or your household?				