

Prevention-Focused RG Messaging: Stopping Harms Before They Start
Speakers: Janine Robinson; Sasha Stark; Melina Condren

Questions & Answers

Do any of the affiliate organizations send info on problem gambling to medical providers? I have never seen any at my PCP no matter where I lived. Just wondering what ways we can better partner with front line medical care providers to give info on responsible gambling and referral info.

There have been some pilot studies looking at the effectiveness of having primary care providers include PG screening in their interactions with patients, but in general, there's definitely room for more collaboration/information sharing opportunities with medical professionals. Primary care is a great place to reach people who are at risk but don't yet see themselves as needing to seek treatment, if medical providers know what to look for, what information to share, and who to make referrals to. In Ontario, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health developed a GP gambling training module, which went toward the professional accreditations for medical licensing. This approach is time-consuming but very impactful.

How much training do the staff get on this in general at gambling establishments?

This varies a lot across jurisdictions, but ideally all customer-facing staff should get basic RG training about what RG and PG are, how to spot and respond to warning signs of PG, common gambling myths and how to respond to them, the importance of informed decision making, etc. Staff who are responsible for responding to serious red flags should get additional specialized RG training.

NOTE: All NYS regulated casino gaming facilities in NYS are required to have all staff trained in problem gambling annually.

RG seems to be similar to Overeaters Anonymous. Are there connections/similarities?

These are very different programs. OA is a peer support group, whereas responsible gambling programming is professionally run and evidence-based.

Can you give examples of what "cutting back" would look like for problem gambling?

People who don't want to quit gambling entirely might instead choose to set a specific budget to stick to, eliminate the type of gambling they find most harmful while continuing to participate in other forms of gambling (like not going to play the slots anymore, but still playing poker with friends), or limiting the amount of time they spend gambling (like visiting the casino one evening a month instead of multiple times a week).