

500 Summer Street NE, E-86  
Salem, OR 97301-1118  
Voice: 503-945-5763  
Fax: 503-378-8467  
TTY: 800-375-2863

## Memorandum

**To:** Problem Gambling Prevention and Treatment Providers

**From:** Greta Coe, Problem Gambling Services Manager

**Date:** November 23, 2021

**Subject:** Expansion of Problem Gambling Services to include Gaming Disorder- Planned Effective date of January 1, 2022

---

This communication is being sent to you because you are a problem gambling prevention and/or treatment provider contracted with the Oregon Health Authority and receiving public funding to provide problem gambling prevention and/or treatment services. With the recognition of the World Health Organization's (WHO) May 2019 decision to include Gaming Disorder under the new ICD-11, OHA/PGS began exploring the use of problem gambling public funds to officially include gaming disorder services as part of our system. OHA/PGS sought the legal guidance from the Oregon Department of Justice on whether we can provide prevention and/or treatment gaming disorder services under our Problem Gambling Treatment Fund statute (ORS 413.522) and it was determined to be appropriate, as treating gaming addiction as part of the OHA/PGS system of services may prevent gambling addiction.

With the similar characteristics exhibited by both disorders, we feel that our providers are part of a group of professionals equipped to address this evolving disorder, and our system has the capacity to provide this service. Because of that, and the current lack of access to services addressing Gaming Disorder under other payers, this population may be underserved and may not have the financial ability to seek and engage in services. This system change will allow us the opportunity for data collection which may inform decision makers for future planning regarding the prevention and/or treatment of gaming disorder and funding allocations.

This is a voluntary expansion, up to the discretion of each contracted agency. This is a temporary expansion with no determined end date at this time, as OHA/PGS is allowing this expansion as long as the system has the capacity to fund and no other funding source is readily available. OHA/PGS plans to continue this discussion during the December All Provider Webinar, via emails and at other presentations and trainings offered in 2022. **If you have any concerns or suggestions regarding this new system change, please do not hesitate to connect with me ASAP. We are interested in your feedback as we move forward.**

Stipulations Regarding Expansion of Gaming Disorder Services:

- Prevention providers have already been allowed to integrate the topic of gaming into their prevention work and may continue to do so. This is a voluntary process.

- PGS treatment providers WILL NOT be required to treat individuals who request or require services for gaming disorder. Providing treatment services for gaming disorder will be at the discretion of the agency. This is a voluntary process.
- Certification for gaming disorder for treatment and prevention professionals will not be required at this time.
- OHA/PGS will not be changing our name or focus, we will be infusing gaming disorder into the work that we already do.
- PGS treatment providers will be allowed to serve an individual with a gaming disorder and will no longer require an additional gambling disorder diagnosis.
- OHA/PGS will develop a criterion for eligibility for gaming disorder treatment, similar to processes as with the problem gambling system, and will provide training and tools.
- PGS treatment providers will be allowed to encounter for gaming disorder services using the diagnosis or diagnostic impression of impulse control disorder.
- OPGR/Helpline will not change its name; however, helpline staff will attempt to address gaming disorder through their conversations with individuals seeking help and will make referrals to a PGS provider who has acknowledged to OHA/PGS they are interested in providing this service.
- OHA/PGS will determine which PGS treatment providers are interested in providing gaming disorder services and will compile a list of interested providers for Helpline staff and OHA/PGS.
- OHA/PGS and the Oregon Lottery will not be providing additional marketing or promotion of gaming disorder services at this time.
- PGS Providers may market/promote gaming disorder treatment services if they choose.
- At this time, due to this being a voluntary process, language around gaming disorder will not be incorporated into contract language.

For guidance documents and resources on gaming disorder for prevention and treatment providers and services, please visit the following web pages:

- PG Prevention: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Problem-Gambling/Pages/Prevention.aspx>
- PG Treatment: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/Problem-Gambling/Pages/Treatment.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to connect with me if you have additional questions.

Contacts: 503-945-6187; [greta.l.coe@dhsoha.state.or.us](mailto:greta.l.coe@dhsoha.state.or.us)