



# WARNING FOR PLAYERS

In accordance with the Law of 8 November 2012, n. 189, Article 7 - paragraph 5

## Gambling can create pathological addiction

### **Gambling is fun but can become dangerous.**

Scientific research has shown that a number of people who gamble are particularly vulnerable to developing addiction. No person should consider gambling as a source of income because the probability of loss is very high and is much greater than the chance of winning, which is extremely low.

Games with cash prizes can be very attractive up to develop a pathological addiction, which is a real disease. It manifests itself primarily by repeated playing behaviors, not controlled by the person's will and a series of psychological, physical and social problems. Gambling may cause risks not only for the health of the person, but also for his/her social life and family, and the loss of a lot of money.

Gambling can be especially dangerous if you use it as a way to escape from the worries and negative thoughts. The behavior of pathological gambling can also be caused by depression, anxiety or drugs abuse. You should not gamble when you are stressed, depressed, anxious or if you are having financial problems.

### **The main signs that gambling is becoming a problem and could develop into a disease are:**

Spending more and more money and spending more and more time to play, despite the losses

Feeling a strong desire to gamble and getting nervous if you do not play

Keeping playing and hoping you can regain your losses, confident in big winnings

Thinking you can control or influence your luck, sometimes with superstitious believes

Lying to family and friends

Making debts or committing illegal actions to get money

### **The problematic gambler can easily evolve into pathological gambler if he continues playing.**

The potential risks related to gambling are:

<b>Development of addiction</b>	<b>Physical and psychological stress</b>
<b>Depression, anxiety and other psychological and psychiatric disorders</b>	<b>Loss of personal credibility and reputation</b>
<b>Family conflicts</b>	<b>Personal, social and business failures</b>
<b>Debts</b>	<b>Legal problems</b>

Pathological gambling is often also associated with other diseases: drug addiction and / or alcohol abuse, psychiatric disorders and mood.

Pathological gamblers in debt are often prey to moneylenders and usurers.

### **SELFTEST:**

**Have you ever felt the urge/craving to play money ever higher?**

**YES NO**

**Have you ever wanted to hide the extent of how much you play to people you are closest?**

**YES NO**

*If you answered positively to at least one question you are at risk of developing problems with gambling.*

### **Problematic and pathological gamblers need specific interventions and immediate care.**

If you think you are at risk or already have a problem with gambling, do not pose a risk to your health and your family! Stop play immediately and call the Addiction Department / Ser.D. or other specialist centers in your area (indicated by your ASL).