



The way in which General practitioners' view problem gambling is shaped by both the country-specific approaches to problems in general and the predominant welfare culture

Problem gambling  
Health professionals  
**views**  
welfare culture  
professional approaches

General practitioners have been identified as important actors in brief interventions targeted at problem gambling. The analysis of focus-group interviews with Finnish, French, Italian and Polish general practitioners showed that their view on the problem is strongly influenced by their country-specific institutional context of welfare provision as well as the approach towards addictions.

The Finnish GPs tend to replicate Nordic welfare state's inclusive all-embracing system logic and they embrace some typical individual traits in the same culture. The French GPs, on the other side consider problem gambling as beyond the individual's control and instead refer towards bodily reactions. This echoes the French medical approach towards addictions in general. The Italian context of the Southern European welfare state regime is articulated in the GPs' discourse about familial relations. Also the influence of the Church in shaping the concept of addiction is made evident. The profound changes in Polish society initiated deep changes in the perception of social problems, including their individualization: The Polish physicians referred to individual and familial contexts of help provision.

These results point out some challenges for any attempt to standardise the medical profession and hints towards differing demands when integrating GPs into early interventions concerning problem gambling in the four countries.

## READ MORE

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Egerer, M., & Marionneau, V. (2015): [And that is where the fun ends - general practitioners' conceptualisation of the line between recreational and problem gambling](#). *Nordic Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 32(1), 31-47

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