

Chances are, one of the patients you'll see today has a gambling problem.

You can't smell it on their breath or see it in their eyes, but one in 10 primary care patients may have a gambling problem.* Three simple questions can help reveal this hidden addiction. Ask your adult patients:

- Do you gamble?
- Have you ever lied about how much you gamble?
- Have you ever felt the need to bet more and more money?

Problem gambling could present as headaches, stomachaches, anxiety, depression or sleep disturbances. Catch the underlying problem and utilize local resources. A referral to gambling treatment can make all the difference. For complete diagnostic criteria and a more comprehensive screening tool, log on to www.npgaw.org or call the National Council on Problem Gambling HelpLine, 1-800-522-4700, for additional information and help making a referral.



N A T I O N A L



PROBLEM GAMBLING

Awareness Week



*Pasternak IV, A.V. and Fleming, M.F. 1999. Prevalence of gambling disorders in a primary care setting. *Archives of Family Medicine* (8):515-520.