

Insight into certain aspects of life of the hospital treated gambling addicts

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The term gambling means investing something valuable in an event that can result in greater and more favorable outcome with two main features: the existence of risk and randomness in the outcome. The main roles of gambling are fun and entertainment but for some people it can lead to serious problems in psychosocial functioning and then we talk about problematic or pathological gambling.

The main purpose of this research paper was to explore different aspects of lives of medically treated gambling addicts at the Psychiatric Clinic Vrapče in 2013 and 2014 by thorough analysis of their medical records in order to deepen general understanding of this type of addiction. The aim was to gain insight into the way of life and the course of developing addiction in patients treated for gambling addiction at the Psychiatric Clinic Vrapče.

The sample of this qualitative study was intentional and it consisted of nine people (seven men and two women) which were retained for treatment at the Psychiatric Clinic Vrapče in 2013 and 2014. The selection criterion was documented diagnostic code F.63.0 within their medical record – the abbreviation for pathological gambling propensity according to the International Classification of Diseases ICD – X.

The method of collecting data for this qualitative research was unobtrusive research method, specifically, the documentation analysis that focused on answering a set of questions previously made for carrying out the aim of this research paper.

Keywords: gambling, addiction, psychosocial problems, life aspects, medical record

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