

## **Abstract**

Working with problem gamblers.

Whether we are working with substance use or behavioural addictions like gambling, assessment for problem gambling is an important tool in our kete. Assessment can rightly be an intervention of itself. It is of paramount importance that the first consideration is to assess if the practitioner and person seeking help, can form a useful therapeutic partnership – a collaborative therapeutic dyad that can uncover the secrets and lies that keep the addictive behaviour in control. Problem gamblers whether they do so out of desperation or the need for excitement are often very skilled deceivers. The well-known saying, ‘the truth will set us free’, may be an elegant framework to apply to the assessment/intervention contract ahead. As part of the informal assessment conversation, the ‘4Ls’ (liver, lover, legal, livelihood) model, can be expanded to 8 ‘Ls’ with the addition of Locus of control, Logos, Lying and Legacy. The formal clinical DSM V non-substance use disorder assessment will be needed once the 8Ls conversation has uncovered the width and depth of the person’s problem.