SUBJECT: Inclusion of Gambling Disorder on the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA)

References: See Enclosure 1.

1. PURPOSE. This Defense Health Agency-Procedural Instruction (DHA-PI), based on the authority of References (a) and (b), and in accordance with the guidance of References (c) through (f), establishes the Defense Health Agency’s (DHA) procedures to assign responsibilities and provide instructions for the requirements of Reference (d), which requires inclusion of gambling disorder screening questions in the PHA.

2. APPLICABILITY. This DHA-PI applies to medical personnel assigned to Office Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of the Inspector General of DoD, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD (referred to collectively in this DHA-PI as the “DoD Components”).

3. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION. It is DHA’s instruction, pursuant to References (a) through (m), to establish procedures that include Gambling Disorder screening questions in the PHA.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES. The Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard will work with the Surgeons General to execute the procedures as soon as practicable and make reasonable efforts to educate providers about the subject matter of this DHA-PI.

5. PROCEDURES. See Enclosure 2.
6. **INFORMATION COLLECTION.** The three-question Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen will be included in the PHA to screen Service Members for Gambling Disorder.

7. **RELEASABILITY.** **Cleared for public release.** This DHA-PI is available on the Internet from the Health.mil site at: www.health.mil/DHAPublications.

8. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This DHA-PI:

   a. Is effective upon signature.

   b. Will expire 10 years from the date of signature if it has not been reissued or cancelled before this date in accordance with Reference (c).

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RONALD J. PLACE
LTG, MC, USA
Director

Enclosures
   1. References
   2. Procedures
Glossary
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

ENCLOSURE 1: REFERENCES

ENCLOSURE 2: PROCEDURES

GLOSSARY

PART I: ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

PART II: DEFINITIONS
REFERENCES

(a) DoD Directive 5136.01, “Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (ASD(HA)),” September 30, 2013, as amended
(c) DHA-Procedural Instruction 5025.01, “Publication System,” August 24, 2018
(e) DoD Instruction 6200.06, “Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) Program,” September 8, 2016
(f) DHA-Procedural Instruction 6200.06, “Periodic Health Assessment (PHA) Program,” May 9, 2017

1This reference can be found at: https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/115/s2987
1. In accordance with reference (d) the PHA must include screening questions for gambling disorder for all Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve members. Providers who are administering the PHA will ask the 3-question Brief Biosocial Gambling Screen following question 1c on page 19 of DD Form 3024, Annual Periodic Health Assessment.

   a. Ask during the past 12 months, have you become restless, irritable, or anxious when trying to stop/cut down on gambling?

   b. Ask during the past 12 months, have you tried to keep your family or friends from knowing how much you gambled?

   c. During the past 12 months did you have such financial trouble as a result of your gambling that you had to get help with living expenses from family, friends, or welfare?

2. The Services will ensure Active Duty, Guard, and Reserve members respond to the Brief Biosocial Gambling Screening Questions.

3. Referral recommendations for gambling disorder assessment will be transmitted to the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Branch in accordance with References (e) and (f). For positive (yes) response(s) on any of the three questions, “gambling” should be notated on question 9k and a recommended referral at questions 10h and 11 of the mental health assessment provider section (pages 22 and 23 of Reference (e)).

4. Provider training will be updated in conjunction with the update to the PHA.
GLOSSARY

PART I. ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DHA</th>
<th>Defense Health Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DHA-PI</td>
<td>Defense Health Agency-Procedural Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHA</td>
<td>Periodic Health Assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART II. DEFINITION

Unless otherwise noted, the following definition is for the purposes of this DHA-PI.

**Provider.** Licensed or certified healthcare personnel (specifically, a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse, independent duty corpsman, special forces medical sergeant, independent duty medical technician, or independent duty health services technician) who have received PHA Program-specific training. This definition does not imply authority to prescribe use of prescription drugs.