

**Title: Presentation of a research protocol evaluation the impact of a Self-Exclusion Procedure optimized by an extension of the Suspension of Commercial Solicitations. (PASS)**

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**Abstract**

The sanitary and social consequences of gambling disorder, such as suicide, over-indebtedness, loss of employment, criminality and family difficulties, are high. It has been shown that the majority of people who self-exclude from gambling are those who have experienced loss of control over their gambling and want to protect themselves. Commercial solicitations increase the risk of loss of control in gambling (Challet-Bouju et al., 2020; Russell et al., 2018). Even though all commercial solicitations are not authorized during the self-exclusion period, they resume as soon as this period ends, encouraging the practice to be taken up again. The efficacy of the current self-exclusion system appears to be limited, particularly in the case of short self-exclusions and among the heaviest gamblers (Luquiens 2019). The implementation of an optimized procedure, consisting of suspending commercial solicitations even after the period of self-exclusion, could promote the protection of the gamblers and encourage access to care for those with gambling-related disorders.

**Objectives:** Our objective of this protocol is to assess the impact of a self-exclusion procedure optimized by an extension of the suspension of direct commercial solicitations by SMS and email compared to the self-exclusion procedure alone at 9 months, on the total net loss of players

**Methods** We will include: 2544 sports betting, poker, and horse racing players playing online at the PMU site, self-excluding for the first time AND self-excluding for 3 months or less (min 3 days). They will be randomly assigned to the 2 arms: optimized procedure with an extension of the suspension of commercial solicitations for a total of 9 months (A) and usual procedure

without extension of the suspension of commercial solicitations at the end of the self-exclusion period (B). They will be assessed on D-1 of 6 ( T1), 9 ( T2, primary endpoint), 12 ( T3) and 18 ( T4) months after self-exclusion on the change in total net loss over the past 4 weeks between D-1 of the day of self-exclusion and D-1 of T1, T2, T3, T4. We will also assess total bets per game, compulsivity, total loss per game, number and duration of gaming sessions The study will also compare the impact according to the type of majority game played. Secondary analyses will be conducted on the nature of commercial incentives (bonuses) and their intensity.

**Perspectives** If this research protocol allows us to better understand the impact of commercial solicitation on gambling behavior, after a period of self-exclusion, it may allow us to adjust these solicitations and potentially protect vulnerable gamblers.