

# Gambling and Medications

## FCCG Resources

- [www.gamblinghelp.org](http://www.gamblinghelp.org)
- Text to 321-978-0555
- Chat Live at [gamblinghelp.org](http://gamblinghelp.org)
- 888-ADMIT-IT (236-4848)
- Recovery Path Counseling Program
- Peer Connect Program

## FCCG Resources

Professional Counseling	✓
12 Step Meeting Referral	✓
Peer Connect Program	✓
Chance For Change Books	✓
Legal Assistance	✓
Social Services	✓
Special Programs	✓

## Medication Side Effects Include Compulsive Gambling

It has been known for many years that medications for Parkinson's and Restless Leg Syndrome sufferers such as Requip and Miripex can cause people to develop serious gambling problems within a relatively short amount of time.

More recently, Abilify which is a popular drug used to treat people suffering from depression, Bi-Polar and other disorders has also been linked to compulsive behaviors such as gambling.

Researchers feel that these drugs over-stimulate dopamine reward receptors in the brain which leads to compulsive behaviors.

The FCCG is sure to ask individuals who contact the 888-ADMIT-IT HelpLine if the gambler is on medications for depression, anxiety, or any neurological disorder. If they are, HelpLine staff asks if their physician has been made aware of the existing



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gambling problem.

It is always encouraged that they contact their doctor to make them aware so that any changes in medications can be made by the doctor.

The FCCG has often heard stories of problem gamblers that have lost everything even though they were only social gamblers (or non-gamblers) before being put on these types of drugs to treat their ailments.

If you or if someone you know has a gambling addiction and are on medications such as these, we would recommend that you contact your prescribing doctor and notify them of this.

**IMPORTANT:** Don't stop taking your medications or change your dosage without speaking to your doctor first and having them make the decision. The medications may or may not be a primary or underlying factor in the compulsive behavior. That should be decided between you and your doctor in a consultation.

Call today for resources and referrals that can help you!  
888-ADMIT-IT: Help Starts Here!