Author's response to reviews

Title: Reliability and validity of the Sheehan Disability Scale modified for pathological gambling

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Thank you for these excellent reviews. We are happy to provide a revised manuscript that addresses all the concerns. Only Reviewer 1 provided suggestions. We made revisions as follows:

Major Compulsory Revisions
1. The timeframe of the SDS-G is discordant with the gambling behavior variables (i.e., past month vs. past three months) and appears to be easily remedied as it was assessed via the Timeline Followback. Presenting correlations of the SDS-G in relation to past month gambling behavior will provide a more accurate assessment of concurrent validity.

We have calculated the past month gambling values and have inserted this information in Table 2. The results are very similar to the three month data but we agree that that using a one month timeframe makes conceptual sense.

2. In the Introduction please briefly discuss the advantages of the SDS-G in relation to another commonly used treatment outcome measure, the Addiction Severity Index, which assesses functioning in domains that overlap with the SDS-G.

We have added this to the Introduction as suggested.

3. The wording of the SDS was changed in this study such that on the scale, a 10 was paired with “severely” instead of “extremely,” which is the typical anchor word for the measure. Is there rationale for this change? How might this wording change affect (if at all) the use and interpretation of this measure.

This was an error in our manuscript which has been corrected.

Minor Essential Revisions
4. Table 1 – Please be consistent in number digits to which scores are reported. Total score is to one digit and the other scores are to two digits.

Modified
5. Table 2 – The n’s reported for the six and twelve month evaluations are inconsistent with the sample sizes reported on page 8.
Modified and clarified

6. Table 2 – To improve clarity please label the last column “SDS-G Total”
Done.