

**Data Collection of poisoning cases:
The application of an extended version of the
Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC)
Classification Index**

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The Poison Information Centre in Erfurt uses the database software ACCESS for data collection of the poisoning cases. Considering the ATC classification index used for drug coding also other chemical substances and products are encoded regarding application fields. The advantage of this classification consists in a very fast selection of cases involving poisonings with a particular substance or product. On the other hand the coding simplifies the statistical interpretation of poisoning cases. The first version of the code was presented in Lille in December 1995. With respect to the ATC code we have modified the code structure. The first letter of the new code means the main group (e.g. „A“ for drugs, „C“ for chemical products etc.) followed by the ATC code in the case of drugs or another code (e.g. for a chemical substance). Furthermore, new codes were defined for plants, animals, and other noxious substances that were not classified in the last version. The poster will present details of the new classification and its use for data collection.