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

G. Hüller¹, M. Wolski², J. Lampe¹, S. Kluge¹, H. Hentschel¹

¹ Gemeinsames Gif tinformationszentrum, Klinikum Erfurt,  
Nordhäuser Strasse 74, D-99089 Erfurt  
² Bundesinstitut für gesundheitlichen Verbraucherschutz und Veterinärmedizin,  
Thielallee 88-92, D-14195 Berlin

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  
oxious substances that were not classified in the last version. The poster will present details  
of the new classification and its use for data collection.