

Navigating the Table of Drugs & Chemicals

Poisoning Defined

- drugs given in error (wrong drug)
- medication given in error (wrong dose, wrong patient, wrong route of administration)
- overdose of a drug given or taken intentionally
- reaction to illegal or illicit drugs (e.g., cocaine)
- prescription or nonprescription medication taken with alcohol
- combination of a prescribed drug taken with a non-prescribed drug even if drugs were taken correctly
- **Toxic Effect:** a non-medicinal is used incorrectly, such as ingesting lead or drinking window cleaner

Adverse Effect Defined

- the build-up or accumulation of a drug in the body (toxicity)
- hypersensitivity or allergic reaction to a drug
- the combined effects of taking one or more prescribed drugs (Drugs may be prescribed by one or more physicians)
- a patient's unexpected reaction to a drug (includes over-the-counter medications taken according to packaging instructions)
- the side effects of a drug which may occur in some patients

Per the Guidelines

Do not code directly from the Table of Drugs and Chemicals. Always refer back to the Tabular List. Use as many codes as necessary to describe completely all drugs, medicinal or biological substances.

ICD-10 Section I.C.19.e.1)-2)

Codes in categories T36-T65 are combination codes that include the substance that was taken as well as the intent. **No additional external cause code** is required for poisonings, toxic effects, adverse effects and underdosing codes.

ICD-10 Section I.C.19.e

ICD-10 Codes

Each of the poisoning/toxic effect/adverse effect/underdosing categories (T36-T65) **use a 5th or 6th character to identify intent:**

1	Use for accidental poisoning (unintentional)
2	Use for intentional self-harm poisoning
3	Use for poisoning, assault
4	Use for poisoning, undetermined
5	Use for an adverse effect to therapeutic use
6	Use for underdosing

Per the Guidelines

When coding a **poisoning** or reaction to the improper use of a medication (e.g., overdose, wrong substance given or taken in error, wrong route of administration), first assign the appropriate code from categories T36-T50. ... **If the intent of the poisoning is unknown or unspecified, code the intent as accidental intent. The undetermined intent is only for use if the documentation in the record specifies that the intent cannot be determined.** Use additional code(s) for all manifestations of poisonings. ... If there is also a diagnosis of abuse or dependence of the substance, the abuse or dependence is assigned as an additional code.

Section I.C.19.e.5)(b)

Per the Guidelines

When a harmful substance is ingested or comes in contact with a person, this is classified as a **toxic effect**. The toxic effect codes are in categories T51-T65. Toxic effect codes have an associated intent: accidental, intentional self-harm, assault and undetermined.

ICD-10 Section I.C.19.e.5)(d)

When coding an **adverse effect** of a drug that has been correctly prescribed and properly administered, assign the appropriate code for the nature of the adverse effect followed by the appropriate code for the adverse effect of the drug (T36-T50).

ICD-10 Section I.C.19.e.5)(a)

Per the Guidelines

Underdosing refers to taking less of a medication than is prescribed by a provider or a manufacturer's instruction.

Codes for underdosing should never be assigned as principal or first-listed codes. If a patient has a relapse or exacerbation of the medical condition for which the drug is prescribed because of the reduction in dose, then the medical condition itself should be coded.

Noncompliance (Z91.12-, Z91.13-) or complication of care (Y63.6-Y63.9) codes are to be used with an underdosing code to indicate intent, if known.

Section I.C.19.e.5)(c)

Decision Tree

