

## What does

# ... a National Poisoning Registry actually do?

A National Poisoning Registry continuously and comprehensively records all cases of poisoning in a country. Poisoning Registries have been established in neighbouring countries, such as France and the UK, for quite some time. The German federal government is planning to set up such Registry at the BfR in the course of the current legislative period. Today, cases of poisoning are only partially recorded in this country, for example through medical doctors' reports to the BfR or notifications to regional Poison Information Centres. It will be the task of a National Poisoning Registry to compile and maintain this information on a national level.

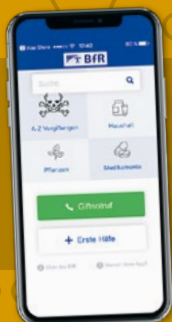
The importance of this kind of monitoring for consumer protection and product safety can be illustrated using the example of liquid laundry detergent capsules (LLC) – highly concentrated washing liquids contained in pods with water-soluble film wrapping. By collecting and evaluating information on cases of poisoning, a strongly increased risk of poisoning with LLC was detected for children some years ago. As a consequence, new safety regulations such as child-impeding package closures and improved warning notices for parents on the packaging have been implemented. The National Poisoning Registry will monitor the effectiveness of these new safety measures and will help to recognise similar high-risk products in a timely manner.

Before the Registry is implemented, tools and procedures are being developed in a pilot study. On behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety in collaboration with the Society for Clinical Toxicology (Gesellschaft für Klinische Toxikologie, GfKT) and the German Poison Information Centres, a systematic collection of poisoning case data was tested for selected product groups, such as e-cigarettes, waterproofing sprays, and fish contaminated with ciguatoxins (leading to Ciguatera fish poisoning). The legal framework for the permanent cooperation and exchange of case data between the Poison Information Centres and federal authorities was reviewed in a legal expert report. The results of the study will be presented at a symposium in September 2019.

### More information:

Feistkorn et al. 2019. Gesundheitsberichterstattung über Vergiftungen in Deutschland – Wissenschaftliche Untersuchung zur Einrichtung eines nationalen Monitorings von Vergiftungen in Deutschland. Bundesgesundheitsbl. 62(3):341-349 doi: 10.1007/s00103-019-02886-1 (Open Access, in German only)

Symposium on the pilot study on 24 September 2019. Information will be available here, as of August 2019: [www.bfr-akademie.de](http://www.bfr-akademie.de)



### BfR app "Poisoning accidents among children"

Good to know: The BfR app "Poisoning accidents among children", which is available for free download, offers precautionary advice on how to protect children from poisoning as well as emergency assistance. An emergency call to a Poison Information Centre is also possible directly from the app. Free download for Android and iOS: [www.bfr.bund.de](http://www.bfr.bund.de) > Presse > BfR-Apps