

## Nordic Casemix Centre - Case

### #853 - Maintenance, content and features of ATC codes

2023-01-02 13:09 - Kristiina Kahur

<b>Status:</b>	Accepted	<b>Start date:</b>	2023-01-02
<b>Priority:</b>	Major	<b>Spent time:</b>	0.00 h
<b>Assignee:</b>	Kristin Dahlen		
<b>Category:</b>			
<b>Initiator:</b>	Nordic Casemix Centre	<b>Target year:</b>	2024
<b>MDC:</b>		<b>Owner / responsible:</b>	Nordic Casemix Centre
<b>Target Grouper:</b>			

#### Description

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This case is related to ticket #690 about the maintenance of ATC codes. For sake of clarity, a new ticket is created.

By now, there is a special module for maintenance of ATC codes in NDMS/MBC and as a next step we would like to discuss with members of EG in 2023 Spring meeting and decide how to proceed with the maintenance of ATC codes and their features in NDMS.

For this, please provide the country information concerning the following items so that this can be discussed in EG 2023 Spring meeting:

1. Are 5-characters ATC codes still in use and there is need to keep them active in 2024 definition tables?
2. Are ATC codes which are used in diagnosis codes or procedure codes tables identical or there can be ATC codes which are included only in procedure codes table and not in diagnosis codes table (and vice versa)?
3. Please check the features of ATC codes in 2023 tables and indicate if there is need for correction in 2024 tables (tables are attached to this ticket).
4. Please inform in case there is no need to keep ATC codes in definition tables at all and the codes can be removed.

Based on the feedback we can proceed with next steps in maintenance of ATC codes and making necessary changes in def. tables.

#### History

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##### #4333 - 2023-02-12 11:33 - Anonymous

2022-02-12 Ralph D

1. Sweden were going to lift this question. We do not think it is a need to keep them active in 2024 definition tables. When inactivated we assume we use 'Inactivated at 31.12.2024'?
2. In the Swedish definition tables the codes are the same in our diagnose and procedure tables, for Sweden that is desired due to Swedish primary classification rules.
3. Sweden has the same features as NCC. So if no changes done by NCC there should be no difference.
4. Sweden needs the ATC-codes to be in our tables. We will as usual do updates for the PR-version. Our NordDRG Explorer that is open to the public uses the Swedish definition tables ATC-codes.

##### #4334 - 2023-02-13 07:02 - Anonymous

2023-02-13 Ralph.

Should be 'Inactivated at 31.12.24'

Otherwise 1 year late.

##### #4335 - 2023-02-13 07:03 - Anonymous

Seems to never get it correct. year should be 2023.

##### #4349 - 2023-02-23 08:38 - Malle Avarsoo

ATC codes are not in use in Estonian NCSP list, so they can be removed starting in EST \_2024 version starting 01.01.2024

1. 5-characters ATC codes NOT in use in EST version
2. ATC codes which are used in diagnosis codes or procedure codes tables are NOT identical to actual ATC nomenclature codes used in pharma IT systems and digital receipts system
3. not relevant for EST
4. Please remove ATC codes in EST definition tables

##### #4368 - 2023-03-04 21:46 - Kristine Putniņa

ATC codes are used in local systems of hospitals, but this information is not collected in NHS IT system.

1. Mostly 7-character ATC codes are used, but there are cases where 5 characters are also used, for example when creating reference groups,

2026-06-26

2. ATC codes which are used in dg or proc tables are identical to actual ATC nomenclature codes in ATC list used in LAT(in ENG as well: <https://dati.zva.gov.lv/zr-atc/>),
3. is not relevant for LAT,
4. Please remove ATC codes from LAT definition tables

**#4376 - 2023-03-07 15:41 - Lotta Sokka**

2023-03-07 Lotta Sokka

For questions number 1 & 2 we agree with Sweden. The 5-digit codes can be inactivated and ATC codes in dg and proc tables are identical. For the features we still need to do more analyses (some were already reported in ticket #859). We will create a new ticket later to report the possible changes if necessary.

**#4377 - 2023-03-07 16:28 - Kristin Dahlen**

- Assignee set to Kristin Dahlen

Norway uses a selection of ATC-codes in our logic. It is mostly in use in our STG-system (covering expensive patientadministered drugs), but we also have a selection of ATC-codes with properties in our DRG-logic.

As mentioned earlier Norway do not see the importance of having all ATC-codes in the DRG-logic tables, as we only uses a small selection of the codes in the logic. The ATC-codes are though used in the hospitals and is reported to the Norwegian patientregistry where they are validated.

The ATC-codes as a whole can therefore be removed from the Norwegian tables, but we need to find a way to manage the ATC-codes that shall have properties. This can be discussed separate by Norway and the center.

**#4408 - 2023-03-20 10:41 - Kristiina Kahur**

- Status changed from Active to Accepted

**2023-03-09 Expert Group**

The summary based on the feedback from countries goes as follows:

Country	Need to keep ATC codes in definition tables	Need to use of 5-characters ATC codes	Are ATC codes in diagnosis codes or procedure codes tables identical	Need for correction of features of ATC codes in 2024 tables
EST	No, will be removed	Not in use	N/A	N/A
FIN	Yes, updates will be made in 2024PR tables	'Inactivated at 31.12.2023' will be added in 2024PR tables	Yes	To be checked. A separate case will be created if need to change
ICE	Yes, updates will be made in 2024PR tables	'Inactivated at 31.12.2023' will be added in 2024PR tables	Yes	A separate case will be created if need to change
LAT	No, will be removed	Yes, but outside DRG system	N/A	N/A
NOR	The ATC-codes as a whole can be removed from the Norwegian tables, but we need to find a way to manage the ATC-codes that shall have properties. This can be discussed separate by Norway and the center.			
SWE	Yes, updates will be made in 2024PR tables	'Inactivated at 31.12.2023' will be added in 2024PR tables	Yes	No need

As mentioned in the #690 in the future the ATC codes will be maintained in MBC (a separate module within NDMS) as a separate classification similarly to ICD and NCSP. In the Diagnosis Feature table and Procedure Feature table the ATC codes will be identical in those national versions where ATC codes will be continuously be part of def.tables.

As minimum, ATC codes will be given OR 0 value in Procedure Feature table and DGCAT 00M00 in Diagnosis Feature tables. Specific national features will be added (or kept if they are in tables already) based on countries inputs. The update process of ATC codes (as well as ICD and NCSP codes ) will continue according to NordDRG annual timetable and the changes concerning ATC codes will be made in 2024PR version. According to timetable, national organisations are expected to deliver national ICD and NCSP versions to Nordic Centre by August 4. This year, the updates of ATC codes are expected to be delivered as a separate file (this concerns the countries which will keep ATC codes in def.tables) to facilitate the maintenance and use of ATC codes in def. tables.

Case is closed.

**Files**

ATC\_codes\_features\_2023PR\_Combined.xlsx

3 MB

2023-01-02

Kristiina Kahur