The CoDe project is standardized for the classification and coding of death in studies of individuals with HIV-infection, based on (i) a detailed data collection of information on the causes of death and contributing factors, and (ii) a centralized coding process.

**OBJECTIVES**
To describe and evaluate the pilot of CoDe using a standardized approach to classify causes of death.

**METHODS**
For the pilot study of CoDe, the Coordinating Centre received a total of 60 CoDe CRFs from 12 HIV-clinics, primarily the site-investigators, during the pilot study period. The dates of death were from February 1, 2003 until July 24, 2004. The principles for the data collection and review process in CoDe were described in the flow chart (figure 2).

HIV clinicians, primarily the site-investigators, completed the CoDe pilot CRFs in order to ensure a detailed, clinical collection of causes of death and contributing factors, and (ii) a centralized coding process.

**RESULTS**
All sixty CoDe pilot CRFs were received at the Coordinating Centre. In the 2nd Consensus Review Round, following communication and partial agreement of review-panelists, the proportion of death from non-AIDS-related causes has increased. However, lack of standardization in the coding of causes of death in HIV-infected individuals has made comparisons over time and between different populations difficult.

**CONCLUSION**
Uniform data collection forms were successfully utilized to obtain detailed information on the deaths from the site clinicians. Providing specific guidelines enabled expert reviewers to arrive at consensus regarding underlying cause of death and whether it was related to immunosuppression. Following the experience and evaluation of the CoDe pilot, this method has been implemented widely in HIV cohorts, and will be subject to continuous evaluation.