

## Post Approval Monitoring: Purpose and Approaches

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The *Guide for the Care and use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)* (NRC 2011) discusses the concept of post approval monitoring (PAM) and its importance in helping to ensure the well-being of animals and providing opportunities to refine research procedures. While PAM is often interpreted as a formal program to monitor the compliance of the actual research in relation to what is approved in the initial protocol, in actuality there are many methods that can be employed either individually, or concurrently, to meet the intent of the *Guide*. Some commonly used methods include continuing protocol review; laboratory inspections; observation of selected procedures; observation of animal care; and external inspections and assessments. These activities may be performed by a variety of individuals associated with an animal care and use program. A risk-based approach is often used to maximize the effectiveness of the personnel resources available for this effort. For example, some programs may focus on the examination of surgical areas; review of protocol-related health and safety issues; review of anesthetic and/or analgesic administration; review of adverse or unexpected experimental outcomes; or observations of laboratory procedures. Regardless of methods or who conducts the monitoring, a partnership approach with research staff and investigators is essential for success.