

Signal Assessment

Preliminary Information That Triggers a Field Assessment

- Media reports
- Signal systems
 - RADARS
 - CRS
 - NAVIPPRO
- Spontaneous reports
 - Pharmacists, patients, physicians, etc.
- Internet/chat rooms
- List serves
 - NADDI
 - Rx Patrol
- Sales/field reps
- Regulatory boards

Assessment Options

- Field Research Process
 - Existing data sources (internal and external)
 - Key informant interviews (telephone and in-person)
 - Preparation of report
 - Inter-departmental meeting

Signal Review

- Ethnographers follow-up signals
- Snowball sampling to gather further data
- Advisory group to determine further action

Rapid Assessment

- Quantitative surveys
- Key informant interviews
- Focus groups
- Direct observations
- Intercept interviewing
- Ethnographic studies
- Examination of existing indicator data

- The assessment options described are not mutually exclusive.
- All three share common elements and utilize similar methods.

Issues to Consider in Selecting an Option

- Type of signal and population implicated
 - Inner city drug abusers
 - Students
 - Doctor shoppers
- Persistence of signal
- Cost and time available to investigate
- Confidentiality issues
- Adaptability of options

Staged Assessments: Phase in More Intensive Assessment Procedures as a Signal Receives Initial confirmation

- Background examination of media reports and existing data
- Preliminary telephone interviews with key informants
- Focus groups with patients in varying types of programs
- In-person key informant interviews
- Observations and intercept interviews
- Large scale rapid assessment
- Ongoing ethnographic studies