Pfizer Quality Improvement RFP

Closing the HRRm Testing Gap in Prostate Cancer Patients

Competitive Grant Program – with Expert Review Panel

Overview

This competitive grant offering seeks to enhance Homologous Recombination Repair gene mutation (HRRm) testing in Canadian prostate cancer patients.

Geographic Scope

Canada

Project Types and Area of Interest

Applicants should submit proposals bringing solutions for the expansion of HRRm testing in Canadian prostate cancer patients. Ideally these will be projects with short-term impact, aimed at closing areas of large gaps. This may include, but not limited to:

- The development of solutions reducing inequities in access to HRRm tests in currently underserved regions or populations
- The development of solutions for early HRRm testing in patients with metastatic Castration-Sensitive Prostate Cancer (mCSPC)
- The development of solutions addressing important areas of inefficiencies or issues related to HRRm testing (any stages from test request to reporting of results)
- The development of solutions to measure the evolution and performance of HRRm testing in the Canadian real-world practice against current guidelines

Key Milestone

Proposal Due Date: Thursday, 2 May 2024

Funding Range

- Individual projects requesting up to a maximum of $100,000 (CAD) will be considered.
- The total available budget related to this RFP is $200,000 (CAD).

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I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Canada

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or physician-owned medical practice groups.
- The following may apply: medical, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations; government agencies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement**.**
- Collaborations within institutions (e.g., between departments and/or inter-professional), as well as between different institutions / organizations / associations, are encouraged. Please note all partners must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.
- The applicant must be the Project Lead/Principal Investigator (PI) or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., Project Lead/PI's grant/research coordinator).
- The Project Lead/PI must be an employee or independent contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer International, LLC

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- Tuesday, 20 February 2024

Clinical Area

- Oncology – Genitourinary - Prostate

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- Applicants should submit projects bringing solutions for the expansion of HRRm testing in Canadian prostate cancer patients. Projects with short-term impact, aiming at closing areas of large gaps, supporting early testing, having the ability to benefit community clinical practices, or involving multi-institution collaborations are preferred. This may include, but not limited to:
    - The development of solutions reducing inequities in access to HRRm tests in currently underserved regions or populations
    - The development of solutions for early HRRm testing in patients with metastatic Castration-Sensitive Prostate Cancer (mCSPC)
    - The development of solutions addressing important areas of inefficiencies or issues related to HRRm testing (any stages from test request to reporting of results)
    - The development of solutions to measure the evolution and performance of HRRm testing in the Canadian real-world practice against current guidelines
- Applicants are encouraged to include in their QI proposals their dissemination plan for their project findings, for example: conference abstract submission, publication in a peer-reviewed journal, etc.

- It is expected that projects will be evidence-based and the proposed interventions will follow generally accepted scientific principles. During review the intended outcome of the project is given careful consideration and, if appropriate based on the project goal, projects with the maximum likelihood to directly impact patient care will be given high priority. Projects including an educational element can find more information on principals of learning and behavior change for health professionals here.
- There is a considerable amount of interest in receiving responses from projects that utilize system-based changes. Although educational efforts for healthcare professionals and patients may be entirely appropriate components in responses to this RFP, projects that include an overt description of system changes will be given high priority.

It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.

Target Audience

- Pathologists, medical oncologists, urologists, radiation oncologists, and all healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients with prostate cancer.
- Prostate cancer patients and their caregivers.

Disease Burden Overview

- Prostate cancer (PCa) is the most common type of cancer among Canadian men, accounting for 20% of all new cancer cases. It is the third leading cause of cancer-related death among Canadian males. Patients with advanced prostate cancer have a median five-year survival rate of 30% (Yip et al, Can Urol Assoc J. 2023 Oct; 17(10): 326–336; Saad et al. Can Urol Assoc J. 2021 Oct; 15(10): 353–358). Around a quarter of advanced prostate cancers have alterations in DNA damage response genes involved directly or indirectly in homologous recombination repair (HRR), including BRCA1/BRCA2. These can sensitize tumors to treatment with poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors (Fizazi et al. Nat Med. 2024; 30(1): 257–264.). Genetic testing in prostate cancer (PCa) is becoming standard of care, as it can provide key information for clinical management, as well as offering crucial insights into familial cancer risk (Rendon et al. 2023 Can Urol Assoc J 2023;17(10):314-25). Largely, Canadian physicians recognized the benefits of both germline and somatic HRR mutation testing, yet there is difficulty accessing testing, with variability between practices and specialties (Yip et al, Can Urol Assoc J. 2023 Oct; 17(10): 326–336)

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to CAD $100,000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is CAD $200,000.
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.
- The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the expert review panel's evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be stated clearly in the grant agreement.

Key Dates:

- RFP Release Date: Tuesday, 20 February 2024
- Full Proposal Due Date: **Thursday, 2 May 2024**
  - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Review of Full Proposals by ERP: May-June 2024
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: By Tuesday, 25 June 2024
- Grant funding will be distributed following a fully executed agreement and submission of Final Protocol, documentation of IRB/IEC approval, regulatory approval (if applicable), exemption or waiver.

How to Submit:

Note: Please read this section carefully since applications submitted not following these instructions will not be accepted and will be cancelled.

- Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI and sign in. First-time users should click “Create your password”. *[Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.]*
- Click the "Start a New Quality Improvement Application" button.
- In the application:
  - For the question “Competitive Grant?” select Yes
  - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2024 Oncology CAN HRRm Testing QI**
  - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Oncology – Genitourinary – QI**
- Requirements for submission:

  Complete all required sections of the online application and upload your project proposal (see Appendix) in the Full Proposal Submission field.
- If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the “Technical Questions” link at the bottom of the page.

IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.

Questions:

- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Lori Carpenter (Lori.Carpenter@pfizer.com), with the subject line “Closing the HRRm Testing Gap in Prostate Cancer Patients 20 February 2024”

Grant Agreements:

- If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer. Please click here to view the core terms of the agreement.
- Under Pfizer's competitive grant program, modifications to grant agreements will not be reviewed unless a genuine conflict exists as between applicable law and the terms of the relevant grant agreement. Applicant is encouraged to share the core terms with counsel for approval prior to submitting an application.
- Except where prohibited by applicable law and, in any case, subject to review by Pfizer Legal, payment of grant funding may only be paid to the grantee organization.

Review and Approval Process

- A specific grant program RFP uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions.
- The panels are comprised of professionals from the medical community with advanced degrees and expertise in particular clinical areas, or specific needs of a geographic region/learner group, or expertise in research, continuing professional development or quality improvement.

Mechanism by which Applicants will be Notified:

- All applicants will be notified via email by the dates noted above.
- Applicants may be asked for additional clarification during the review period.

About Pfizer Global Medical Grants

Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG) supports the global healthcare community's independent initiatives (e.g., research, quality improvement or education) to improve patient outcomes in areas of unmet medical need that are aligned with Pfizer's medical and/or scientific strategies.

Pfizer's GMG competitive grant program involves a publicly posted Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a specific area of interest, sets timelines for review and approval, and uses an expert review panel (ERP) to make final grant decisions. Organizations are invited to submit an application addressing the specific gaps in practice as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all quality improvement grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the quality improvement program.

Appendix

Specific RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal via the link listed in the How to Submit section. Project Proposals should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 15-page limit exclusive of references. When uploading your Full Proposal please ensure it addresses the following sections:

Goals and Objectives

- Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Also describe how this goal aligns with the focus of the RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s).
- List the overall objectives you plan to meet with your project both in terms of learning and expected outcomes. Objectives should describe the target population as well as the outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.

Assessment of Need for the Project

- Please include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), or a project starting point (please cite data on gap analyses or relevant patient-level data that informs the stated objectives) in your target area. Describe the source and method used to collect the data. Describe how the data was analyzed to determine that a gap existed. If a full analysis has not yet been conducted, please include a description of your plan to obtain this information.

Target Audience

- Describe the primary audience(s) targeted for this project. Also indicate whom you believe will directly benefit from the project outcomes. Describe the overall population size as well as the size of your sample population

Project Design and Methods

- Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need.
- If your methods include educational activities, please describe succinctly the topic(s) and format of those activities.

Innovation

- Explain what measures you have taken to assure that this project idea is original and does not duplicate other projects or materials already developed.
- Describe how this project builds upon existing work, pilot projects, or ongoing projects developed either by your institution or other institutions related to this project.

Evaluation and Outcomes

- In terms of the metrics used for the needs assessment, describe how you will determine if the practice gap was addressed for the target group. Describe how you expect to collect and analyze the data.
- Quantify the amount of change expected from this project in terms of your target audience.
- Describe how the project outcomes will be broadly disseminated.

Anticipated Project Timeline

- Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates.

Additional Information

- If there is any additional information you feel Pfizer should be aware of concerning the importance of this project, please summarize here.

Organization Detail

- Describe the attributes of the institutions / organizations / associations that will support and facilitate the execution of the project and the leadership of the proposed project. Articulate the specific role of each partner in the proposed project.

Budget Detail

- The budget amount requested must be in Canadian dollars (CAD).
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
  - General organizational running costs such as insurances, heating, lighting, rent, building maintenance may be included as part of the institutional overhead.
  - Pfizer does not provide funding for capital purchases (infrastructure expenses such as equipment, purchases of software or software licenses, technology or bricks and mortar).
  - Reagents, consumables, and equipment hire/leasing for the duration of the project is acceptable and may be included in project budget. However, the proposal must include a plan for sustainability and how these costs would be covered beyond the life of the grant.
  - Grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription).
- Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects. Please click here for details.