Pfizer Quality Improvement RFP

Quality Improvement Grants to improve the early suspicion, identification, and the management of patients with ATTR-CM

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

Overview

This competitive grant program seeks to support quality Improvement (QI) initiatives to increase the capacity of the health care system to provide more timely suspicion, identification and diagnosis and appropriate treatment for ATTR-CM patients

Geographic Scope/Location of Project

Canada

Project Types and Area of Interest

Pfizer is interested in receiving proposals that:

- Improve the capabilities for disease suspicion and identification.
- Reduce the time to correct diagnosis, among a broad audience of health care professionals, including increasing coordination across specialties.
- Improve the patient's holistic management.
- Adapt international best practices to Canadian context for improved patients' outcomes.

Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **31 May 2024**
- Anticipated decision notification date: **September 2024**
- Anticipated project start date: **November 2024**

Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to $50,000 CAN will be considered. We anticipate funding 2 projects.

French version available. Click here

Pfizer

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Canada

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The following may apply: medical, dental, 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.
- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups (i.e., an independent group of physicians not affiliated with a hospital, academic institution, or professional society).
- 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 contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer International LLC. We strongly recommend that applicants confirm this with their organization or institution prior to submitting an application. Grants awarded to organizations that are subsequently found to be unable to accept funding directly from Pfizer International LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- 2 April 2024

Clinical Area

- Transthyretin Cardiac Amyloidosis (ATTR-CM)

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- In order to increase the capacity of the health care system to provide more timely suspicion, identification and diagnosis and appropriate treatment for ATTR-CM patients, we are interested in receiving proposals that:
  - Improve the capabilities for disease suspicion and identification.
  - Reduce the time to correct diagnosis, among a broad audience of health care professionals, including increasing coordination across specialties.
  - Improve the patient holistic management.
  - Adapt international best practices to Canadian context for improved patients' outcomes.

    AND
  - Include a robust and well-defined plan for evaluation and dissemination; AND
  - Include a plan to sustain the project beyond the period of funding.

It is **not our intent to support research** projects. Any research projects will be considered out of scope for this project. Examples of **out-of-scope** projects include clinical research projects, basic science research, prevalence studies, registry development, health services research and outcomes research. *It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.*

Disease Burden Overview

- Amyloidosis is often underrecognized and misdiagnosed.[1] For example, it is estimated that the correct diagnosis of TTR amyloidosis is delayed by years, in part because it is a **multisystemic** disorder.[2] Our goal is to help accelerate the journey of transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis patients by supporting capacity building programs.
- In Canada, over the recent years, efforts were made on different fronts to raise awareness among the community of cardiologists and other healthcare providers and facilitate improved access to diagnostics and treatment. Despite this, significant gaps remain as evidenced by the relatively low diagnostic rate compared to other high-income countries with comparable demography.[3] The purpose of this RFP is to support the efforts of Canadian Healthcare Providers involved in the care of amyloidosis in improving their capabilities for early disease suspicion and identification and patients' management through supporting quality improvement initiatives.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to $50,000 CAN will be considered.
- We anticipate funding 2 projects.
- 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: **2 April 2024**
- Full Proposal Due Date: **31 May 2024**
- Review of Full Proposals by ERP: **July 2024**
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: **September 2024**
- Grants 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 RD Canada ATTR-CM 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, Amanda Stein (amanda.j.stein@pfizer.com), with the subject line "ATTR-CM QI Canada."

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.
- The agreement is expected to be signed by both parties within 2024 and **without change**.
- 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.

References

1. Maurer MS et al. Expert Consensus Recommendations for the Suspicion and Diagnosis of Cardiac ATTR Amyloidosis. Circ Heart Fail. 2019 September; 12(9): e006075.

2. Rozenbaum MH et al. Impact of Delayed Diagnosis and Misdiagnosis for Patients with Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM): A Targeted Literature Review. Cardiol Ther (2021) 10:141–159.

3. Pfizer Internal Data - based on a prevalent population in the 60+ year olds.

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 listed in the How to Submit section. Project Proposals/Protocols should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 12-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 (CAN).
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
  - General organizational running costs such as legal fees, insurance, heating, and lighting etc. should be included in an Institutional Overhead (if required). These costs are not specific to a grant request and therefore, should not appear as line items in budgets. However, costs that are specific to the study (e.g., some countries require insurance to be taken out on a per-study basis for clinical research) would be acceptable to be included as line items.
    - The inclusion of overhead costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
  - Pfizer does not provide funding for capital purchases (infrastructure expenses such as equipment, purchases of software or software licenses, technology or bricks and mortar). Equipment hire/leasing is acceptable and may be included in project budget.
  - It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase Pfizer 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.