Pfizer Announces a Quality Improvement Grant RFP

Efforts to Establish a System to Refer Patients with Suspected Cardiomyopathy of Unknown Origin to Specialized Medical Institutions

日本語版はこちらをクリックしてください⇓

Note this RFP is also available in Japanese for your convenience

I. Background

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 external 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.

II. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:	Japan
Applicant Eligibility Criteria	Applications are invited from organizations such as, o Universities, university hospitals, regional core hospitals, and other medical educational institutions o Medical societies, research groups, etc. o Medical foundations and NPO, etc. (Corporations, patient associations, patient support groups engaged in activities related to the field of disease) o Medical, Pharmacist, and Dental Associations o Other organizations engaged in medical education. (Publishing companies that provide medical education information, etc.) o Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups. o 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. For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

III. Requirements

Date RFP Issued	January 21, 2022
Clinical Area	Cardiomyopathy
Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:	Patients with suspected cardiomyopathy of unknown origin sometimes require referral to a specialized institution for work-up, definitive diagnosis, and appropriate treatment. This open request for proposals (RFP) will support a project to establish appropriate referral systems to specialized institutions for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with suspected cardiomyopathy of unknown origin. [Points to consider] - For example, this includes regular patient review meetings and study meetings involving regional core hospitals for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with suspected cardiomyopathy of unknown origin. (However, it is not

	limited to just this.) - Grants cannot be used to "purchase assets that may become assets of the requesting organization after the completion of the project" or for the "personnel expenses of project members." (Refer to the Appendix for details) It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered. Information on how to submit requests for support of clinical research projects can be found at Investigator Sponsored Research In addition, it is not also our intent to support guideline development (e.g., clinical treatment guidelines) from the viewpoint of COI. More information can be found at Quality Improvement Grants
Target Audience:	Healthcare professionals who may perform physical examinations or tests for patients with cardiomyopathy (cardiologists, radiologists, sonographers, pathologists, clinical radiologists, clinical laboratory technicians, etc.)
Disease Burden Overview:	Cardiomyopathy can be broadly classified into primary cardiomyopathy, in which the main lesions are in the myocardium, and secondary cardiomyopathy, in which the cardiac lesions are indicative of systemic disease [1]. Secondary cardiomyopathy includes hypertensive cardiomyopathy, ischemic cardiomyopathy, cardiac amyloidosis, cardiac sarcoidosis, Fabry disease, and mitochondrial cardiomyopathy, and this distinction is important since specific treatments may exist depending on the cause [1]. For differential diagnoses, referral to institutions capable of performing the required tests or institutions with specialists is sometimes necessary This open request for proposal (RFP) will support a project to establish appropriate referral systems to specialized institutions for the diagnosis and treatment of patients with suspected cardiomyopathy of unknown origin.
Recommendations and Target Metrics:	Guideline on Diagnosis and Treatment of Cardiomyopathies (JCS 2018 edition), (JCS/JHFS Guideline) JCS2018_tsutsui_kitaoka.pdf (j-circ.or.jp), Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute and Chronic Heart Failure (JCS 2017/JHFS 2017) (The Japanese Circulation Society [JCS]/The Japanese Heart Failure Society [JHSF] Guideline) Guidelines for Diagnosis and Treatment of Acute and Chronic Heart Failure (JCS 2017/JHFS 2017) (j-circ.or.jp)
Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps:	For cardiac amyloidosis, one of the secondary cardiomyopathies, Vyndaqel induction institutions/a physician certification system has been established for prescriptions of Vyndaqel [2].
Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:	Individual projects requesting up to 2,000,000 JPY will be considered. The amount of the grant Pfizer will be prepared to fund for any project will depend upon the external review panel's evaluation of the proposal and costs involved and will be stated clearly in the approval notification.

Key Dates:	• RFP release date: January 21, 2022 • LOI due date: March 7, 2022 Please note the deadline is midnight Eastern Time (New York, GMT -5). • Review of LOIs by External Review Panel: April 2022 • Anticipated LOI Notification Date: April 2022 • Full Proposal Deadline: May 2022 * *Only accepted LOIs will be invited to submit full proposals • Review of Full Proposals by External Review Panel: June 2022 • Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: August 2022 • Grants distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement • Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2025
How to Submit:	• Please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/loi and sign in. First-time users should click "Create your password". • In the application: o Select the following Project Type: "*Quality Improvement*". o Select the following Primary Area of Interest: "*TTR-Amyloidosis*" o Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: "*2022 RD JP: Establish a System to Refer Patients with Suspected Cardiomyopathy*" • Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application and upload the completed LOI template (see Appendix). • 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 through the wrong application type and/or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.
Questions:	MEG-J Office, Pfizer Japan Inc. meg.japan@pfizer.com Please include the title of this open call, "Establish a System to Refer Patients with Suspected Cardiomyopathy".

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. • Pfizer has drafted the terms of these agreements to be balanced and reasonable and to further the goals of both parties. Negotiating grant agreements requires significant resources, so please ensure that your institution (including your legal department) is able and willing to abide by these terms before proceeding with submission of your application as they will need to be accepted in their entirety.
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 or to make a summary presentation during the review period. • Pfizer must complete payment procedure by the end of November 2022. Please confirm the procedure of your institution for receiving our grant before proceeding with submission of your application.

References:

1. JCS 2018 Guideline on Diagnosis and Treatment of Cardiomyopathies ：https://www.j-circ.or.jp/cms/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/JCS2018_tsutsui_kitaoka.pdf

2. The Japanese Circulation Society. Application for certification of Vyndaqel induction institutions and physicians： https://www.j-circ.or.jp/cms/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/20210823_Bindakeru.pdf

Appendix A

Letter of Intent Requirements

The Letter of Intent (LOI) will be accepted via the online application. When answering the LOI questions in the application please keep the following in mind:

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. Letters of support from partner organizations will be required at the Full Proposal stage only and should not be included with the LOI.
Budget Detail	• A total amount requested is the only information needed for the LOI stage. Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage as applicable. • The budget amount requested must be in Japanese YEN (JPY). • While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind: o Institutional overhead and indirect costs may be included within the grant request. Examples include human resources department costs, payroll processing and accounting costs, janitorial services, utilities, property taxes, property and liability insurance, and building maintenance as well as additional project expenses such as costs for publication, IRB / IEC review fees, software license fees, and travel. Please note: Pfizer does not provide funding for capital equipment. o The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP. o It should be noted that grants awarded through GMG cannot be used to purchase therapeutic agents (prescription or non-prescription). o Consumption tax should be included in your budget. • Pfizer maintains a company-wide, maximum allowed overhead rate of 28% for independent studies and projects.