

Quality Improvement RFP

Improving the quality of care of patients with urothelial cancer/Oncology

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel



MERCK



Overview

Pfizer and Merck Serono are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity to support Quality Improvement projects that will advance the quality of care and best practices around the management of patients with Urothelial Cancers.

The intent of this RFP is to encourage proposals for the implementation of strategies that will measurably improve the quality of care of patients with urothelial cancer (UC).



Geographic Scope

Italy

Project Types and Area of Interest

This RFP aims to encourage projects that will measurably improve the quality of care of patients with UC, with a focus on strategies that would improve their quality of life and disease management. In particular, projects that will be prioritised will: facilitate health care systems and providers to engage patients/caregivers/families in disease management and shared decision making; implement approaches to optimize care throughout the patient cancer experience; address barriers, challenges and opportunities in establishing and delivering guideline-concordant care; improve available resources, education and support tools for patients and caregivers.



Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: 11 April 2023
- Anticipated decision notification date: July 2023
- Anticipated project start date: From December 1, 2023



Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to 70000 Euros will be considered. The total available budget related to this RFP is 125000 Euros.
- From December 2023 with a project duration of up to 2 years.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Italy

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.
- The following may apply: public healthcare bodies (hospitals, aziende sanitarie locali [ASLs], universities, Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico [IRCCS] or accredited private hospitals that are involved in the care of oncological patients.
 - 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.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- February 3, 2023

Clinical Area

- Urothelial Cancer

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- The intent of this RFP is to encourage proposals for the implementation of strategies that will measurably improve the quality of care of patients with UC. Projects should include an evidence-based approach with the ultimate goal of optimizing the care of patients with UC, with a focus on strategies that would improve their quality of life and disease management.
- The scope of this RFP includes projects that achieve one or more of the following:
 - Facilitate healthcare systems and providers to engage patients with urothelial cancer, their caregivers, and families in shared decision-making
 - Encourage the use of multi-disciplinary care models
 - Improve the integration and standardization of care across affiliated hospitals, systems, and regions
 - Implement approaches to optimize care throughout the patient cancer experience, including optimal access to clinical trials and evidence-based treatment
 - Addressing barriers, challenges, and opportunities in establishing and delivering guideline-concordant care
 - Patient-facing navigational support tools to improve access to care and to empower patients in care planning and decision making, including available patient resources, education, and support tools, as well as, mechanisms for dissemination of information to patients and caregivers.
 - It is expected that projects will be evidence-based and the proposed research/evaluation 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.

- There is a considerable amount of interest in receiving responses from projects that utilize system-based changes. 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

- Medical Oncologists, Urologist, Radiotherapist, Geriatriist, Nephrologist

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to 70000 Euros will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is 125000 Euros
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 approval notification

Key Dates:

- RFP Release Date; 3 February 2023
- Full Proposal Due Date: 11 April 2023
Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Review of Full Proposals by ERP: July 2023
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: July 2023

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 Choose an item. button.
- In the application:
 - For the question "Competitive Grant?" select Yes
 - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2023 Onc Italy Urothelial Cancer 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 GMGEMEA@pfizer.com, with the subject line “Improving the quality of care in patients with urothelial cancer, February 2023.”

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.
- This RFP is being issued by the Alliance Pfizer-Merck Serono. Grant funding and general oversight of the funded projects will be provided directly from Pfizer on behalf of both Pfizer and Merck Serono.
- Payment will only be made to requesting Institution.

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.

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 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 Euros (EUR).
 - 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. 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.
 - The inclusion of these costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
 - 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.
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