

# Japan Association for Development of Community Medicine and Pfizer Quality Improvement RFP

## *Promote the Streamline and Optimization of Healthcare System to Improve Regional Disparities*

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

### Overview

In the situation where healthcare professionals are unevenly distributed in Japan, it is required to reduce the working hours of healthcare professionals and to maintain the regional healthcare system at the same time, and great importance is given to the promotion of efficiency and optimization of the healthcare system to improve regional disparities. We are offering the projects that aim to improve healthcare regional disparities.

### Geographic Scope

Japan

### Project Types and Area of Interest

- Cardiovascular Disease and Cancer
- A project to be supported include, but is not limited to, the following projects aiming at streamlining and optimizing the healthcare system to improve regional disparities:
  - A project to tackle the optimization of the medical care delivery system by promoting team medical care.
  - A project to promote the streamline and optimization of the healthcare system with effective use of limited medical resources.
  - A project to reduce the burden of healthcare professionals and improve the efficiency of the healthcare system using technologies such as information and communication technologies (ICTs).

### Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: ~~June 30, 2023~~  
**Extended Due Date: July 14, 2023**
- Anticipated decision notification date: September 30, 2023
- Anticipated project start date: January 1, 2024

### Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to 3,000,000 JPY will be considered
- Project execution period: January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 (up to a maximum of 2 years)

Note this RFP is also available in [Japanese](#) for your convenience

## I. Eligibility

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### Geographic Scope:

- Japan

### Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.
- The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations; 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.

## II. Requirements

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### Date RFP Issued

- May 10, 2023

### Clinical Area

- Cardiovascular Disease / Cancer

### Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- It is our intent to support projects that focus on promoting behavior change of healthcare professionals to improve the following situations:
  - 1) Medical and scientific knowledge are poorly utilized in practice; and
  - 2) Medical and scientific knowledge is used in practice, but results and achievements are not obtained.
- A project to be supported include, but is not limited to, the following projects aiming at streamlining and optimizing the healthcare system to improve regional disparities:
  - A project to tackle the optimization of the medical care delivery system by promoting team medical care.
  - A project to promote the streamline and optimization of the healthcare system with effective use of limited medical resources.
  - A project to reduce the burden of healthcare professionals and improve the efficiency of the healthcare system using technologies such as information and communication technologies (ICTs).

*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

- Healthcare professionals engaged in local healthcare (those who belong to organizations, local governments, or others that provide medical care, patient care, or nursing care.)

## Disease Burden Overview

- There is an uneven regional distribution of healthcare professionals including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and caregivers due to concerns about the working environment. #1
- The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) are taking measures including measures to solve uneven distribution of physicians, regional medical care vision, and efforts to tackle medical care in remote areas, but various measures are continued to be required to solve problems. #1
- In addition to securing physicians, it is required to shorten working hours and to maintain the regional healthcare system at the same time. #2
- Considering the accelerated decline in the productive population, while we should continue efforts to create necessary services, it is also important to optimize and improve the efficiency of the healthcare and nursing care system in order to meet the growing needs for medical and nursing care with limited human resources. #3
- Since changes in the population composition and trends in medical/nursing care demands differ among regions, it is necessary to aim at a flexible system that will be able to utilize ingenuity in each region in order to secure medical and nursing care in a comprehensive fashion. #3

## Recommendations and Target Metrics

- FY 2022 MHLW White Paper #1
- Summary of opinions on the 8th Medical Care Plan. #2
- Basic policies to secure regional medical and nursing care in a comprehensive manner #3
- Promotion of task shifting/sharing to the feasible extent under the current system #4
- Promotion of informatization in the medical field #5
- Promotion of informatization in the fields of medical care, nursing care, and health #6

## Barriers

- From the viewpoint of providing high-quality medical care and improving its efficiency, it is required to promote the utilization of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and digitization in the medical field. #2
- In order to shorten the working hours of physicians, it is required to promote task shifting/sharing regarding tasks that can be conducted by healthcare professionals other than physicians among physician tasks to the feasible extent under the current system #4
- To ensure the quality and safety of medical care and provide them in a sustainable manner, it is necessary to promote reform of physicians' working practices to ensure their health through labor management and reduction of working hours. In addition, it is necessary to create work environments so that workers with different professions can fully demonstrate their high level of expertise, and to establish a system in which task shifting/sharing are realized and healthcare professionals can support the medical settings as a team. #3
- As the productive population rapidly decreases, it is necessary to realize the medical and nursing care settings in which burden of workers has been reduced while securing the quality of services and using technologies. #3

## Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to 3,000,000 JPY will be considered.
- 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: 5/10/2023
- Due Date: ~~6/30/2023~~ **Extended Due Date: July 14, 2023**
  - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Review of Full Proposals by ERP: 8/31/2023
- Anticipated Notification Date: 9/30/2023
- Anticipated Project Start and End Dates: 1/1/2024 to 12/31/2025 (up to a maximum of 2 years)
- 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](http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI) and sign in. First-time users should click "Create your password".
- 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: *2023 GMG JP: JADECOR Regional Disparities QI*
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: *Support for Profession/Professionals*
- 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 MEG-J Office of Pfizer Japan ([meg.japan@pfizer.com](mailto:meg.japan@pfizer.com)), with the subject line "Promote the Streamline and Optimization of Healthcare System to Improve Regional Disparities."

### 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.

- 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.

### References

#1: FY 2022 MHLW White Paper

#2: Summary of opinions on the 8th Medical Care Plan

#3: Basic policies to secure regional medical and nursing care in a comprehensive manner

#4: Promotion of task shifting/sharing to the feasible extent under the current system

#5: Promotion of informatization in the medical field

#6: Promotion of informatization in the fields of medical care, nursing care, and health



## About Japan association for Development of Community Medicine and Pfizer Global Medical Grants

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The Japan Association for Development of Community Medicine conducts the projects below for the purpose of contributing to regional revitalization by conducting research on regional healthcare mainly in remote areas across Japan and providing enlightenment on and disseminating regional healthcare knowledge, as well as by enhancing resident welfare including ensuring regional healthcare and improving its quality.

1. Guidance on medical training activities for medical students in remote areas
2. Research on and establishment of medical-care provision standards in medical care in remote areas
3. Establishment and nurturing of general practitioners
4. Provision of medical information
5. Holding of study meetings and lectures on regional healthcare
6. Employment placement for and dispatch of doctors and other healthcare professionals who will work in remote areas.
7. Communication and coordination with related administrative agencies
8. Publication of newsletters and journals
9. Establishment of hospitals and other institutions that support healthcare (including nursing care) in remote areas, including securing of doctors who will work at remote areas, as well as taking charge of operational management of these institutions
10. Implementation of social welfare services for children necessary for cooperating with or operating the hospitals and other institutions mentioned in the preceding item.
11. Establishment of schools for nurturing nurses and other workers who will work for hospitals and other institutions that support medical care in remote areas.
12. Other businesses necessary to achieve the objectives of the preceding item.

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

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### 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

#### Effort to Improve Regional Disparities

- [Describe the role of this project to improve the regional disparities in the healthcare system.](#)

#### 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 Japanese YEN (JPY).
- 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.