# Pfizer Quality Improvement RFP

## *Evidence-informed treatment decisions in chronic inflammatory disorders*

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

### Overview

*This competitive program seeks to improve patient care in routine clinical practice by supporting initiatives to optimise evidence-informed treatment decisions (with therapies including JAK inhibitors) for chronic inflammatory disorders.*

### Geographic Scope

Australia

### Project Types and Area of Interest

*Quality improvement (QI) Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on improving quality of care for patients affected by Rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ulcerative colitis and atopic dermatitis.*

*Potential applicants are encouraged to identify and address knowledge gaps about the existing data for all available treatments (including JAK inhibitors) that may impact evidence-informed treatment decisions in routine clinical practice. This may include:*

- *Leverage available real-world evidence to understand how treatment decisions (including JAK inhibitors) are made in routine clinical practice to understand and potentially identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for action*
- *Initiatives to support evidence-based decisions about the use of all treatment options (including JAK inhibitors) in routine clinical practice*
- *Optimise risk identification & stratification when tailoring therapy with JAK inhibitors*
- *Educational initiatives (e.g. programs, resources) to disseminate evidence-based treatment decisions in routine clinical practice*

### Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **04 August 2023 (Extended)**
- Anticipated decision notification date: 29 September 2023
- Anticipated project start date: 01 December 2023

### Funding Range and Project Length

Up to AUD $150,000 for 12-18 months.

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# I. Eligibility

## Geographic Scope:

- Australia

## Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.
- The following may apply: medical, nursing; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations; 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.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

# II. Requirements

## Date RFP Issued

- 29 May 2023

## Clinical Area

- Rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ulcerative colitis and atopic dermatitis.

## Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- It is our intent to improve patient care by supporting projects that identify and address knowledge gaps about the existing data for all available treatments (including JAK inhibitors) that may impact evidence-informed treatment decisions in routine clinical practice. This may include:
  - Leverage available real-world evidence to understand how treatment decisions are made in routine clinical practice to understand and potentially identify knowledge gaps and opportunities for improvement
  - Initiatives to support evidence-based decisions about the use of all treatment options (including JAK inhibitors) in routine clinical practice
  - Optimise risk identification & stratification when tailoring therapy with JAK inhibitors
  - Educational initiatives (e.g. programs, resources, preceptorships) to strengthen evidence-based treatment decisions in routine clinical practice
- It is expected that projects will be evidence-based (education and/or quality improvement) 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 and with the potential to be broadly disseminated will be given high priority. Projects including an educational element can find more information on principals of learning and behaviour 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 grantees 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

- Healthcare professionals involved in the management of patients with chronic inflammatory disorders (e.g. rheumatologists, IBD specialists, dermatologists)

## Recommendations and Target Metrics

- **Treatment Guidelines and Recommendations:**
  - Fraenkel L et al. 2021 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis. *Arthritis Care Res.* Vol. 73, No. 7, July 2021, pp 924–939
  - Smolen JS et al. EULAR recommendations for the management of rheumatoid arthritis with synthetic and biological disease-modifying antirheumatic drugs: 2022 update. *Ann Rheum Dis.* 2023; **82**:3–18
  - Ward MM et al. 2019 Update of the American College of Rheumatology/Spondylitis Association of America/Spondyloarthritis Research and Treatment Network Recommendations for the Treatment of Ankylosing Spondylitis and Nonradiographic Axial Spondyloarthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* Vol. 71, No. 10, October 2019, pp 1599–1613
  - Onel KB et al. 2021 American College of Rheumatology Guideline for the Treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis: Therapeutic Approaches for Oligoarthritis, Temporomandibular Joint Arthritis, and Systemic Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* Vol. 74, No. 4, April 2022, pp 553–569
  - Singh JA et al. 2018 American College of Rheumatology/National Psoriasis Foundation Guideline for the Treatment of Psoriatic Arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum.* Vol. 71, No. 1, January 2019, pp 5–32
  - Raine T et al. ECCO Guidelines on Therapeutics in Ulcerative Colitis: Medical Treatment. *J Crohns Colitis.* 2022, 2–17
  - Wollenberg A et al. European guideline (EuroGuiDerm) on atopic eczema: part I–systemic therapy. *JEADV*. 2022,36,1409–1431
  - Wollenberg A et al. European guideline (EuroGuiDerm) on atopic eczema - part II: non-systemic treatments and treatment recommendations for special AE patient populations. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol.* 2022;36(11):1904-1926
  - Smith S et al. Atopic dermatitis in adults: An Australian management consensus. *Australas J Dermatol.* 2020 Feb;61(1):23-32
- **Target Metrics**
  - Applications should outline the expected outcomes and how these will be measured (e.g. surveys to assess knowledge improvement and patient reported 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 analyse 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. Please outline how the outcomes of the project will be translated into delivery, addressing how they could be implemented to provide the maximum benefit to patients.
  - Outline a publication plan if you do intend to publish the outcomes

## Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to AUD $150,000 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: 29 May 2023
- Full Proposal Due Date: **04 August 2023 (Extended)**
  - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Review of Full Proposals by ERP: 08 September 2023
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: 29 September 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

- **Include only one URL:** Please go to 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 I&I Australia JAKi QI**
  - Select one of the following Primary Area of Interest: Rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, axial spondyloarthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ulcerative colitis and atopic dermatitis.
- 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, Renee Yip (Renee.Yip@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2023 I&I Australia JAKi QI, 29 May 2023."

## Grant Agreements:

- Should your grant be selected by the expert review panel, Pfizer will conduct an internal compliance due diligence review before entering into a written agreement with the applicant's Institution. Conducting the compliance due diligence review is not a guarantee of approval. 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.

## 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 10-15-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 Australian dollars (AUD).
- 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.