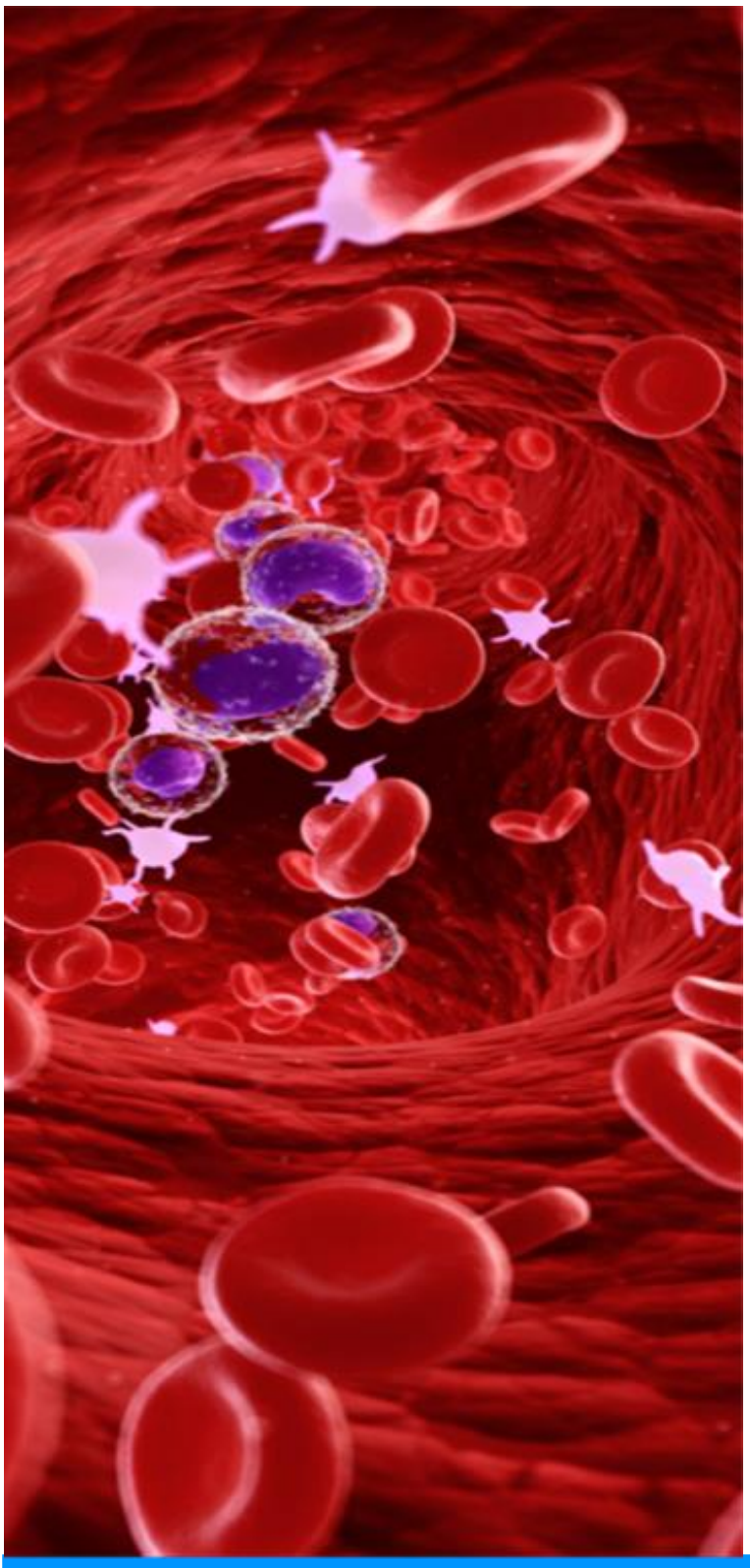
BOOST - Multiple Myeloma

An Oncology Boosting Program



Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals (RFP)

Competitive Grant Program

This RFP was developed with input and advice from medical experts beyond Pfizer. Proposals will be reviewed and funding decisions made by an external Expert Review Panel.

Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- The Netherlands

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or physician-owned medical practice groups.
- The following may apply: medical and nursing schools and academic centers, healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional associations; hospitals and community cancer centers, government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs); Patient Advocacy Groups 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.
- Inclusion of multiple myeloma patients as members of the project team is encouraged.
- The Project Lead must be an employee or independent contractor of the requesting organization.

Requirements

Date RFP Issued

29 Aug 2024

Clinical Area

- Oncology – Hematology – Multiple Myeloma

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- It is our intent to support quality improvement projects that focus on resolving gaps and/or barriers in delivering quality healthcare for people with Multiple Myeloma.
  Proposals will address one or more of the following:

  Addressing disparities in the quality of care.
  Health inequities could be related to many different factors including geographic location, age, race/ethnicity, or socioeconomic status. Disparities in healthcare may be caused by patient factors such as health literacy, or healthcare professional or system-driven factors such as access to clinical trials or individual unconscious or conscious bias.

Psychological effect of Multiple Myeloma on patients and their caregivers.
Psychological or social issues directly effecting the patient such as depression and social obstacles, but also the effect the disease and treatment have on family members and/or carers.

Improving the quality of treatment by exploring better ways to manage long term side effects
Examples of side effects may include fatigue, neuropathy, or infections.

- Proposals involving clinical research projects will not be considered for this RFP.
- It is expected that projects will be evidence-based and the proposed evaluation will follow generally accepted scientific principles. During review the intended outcome of the project is given careful consideration and projects with the maximum likelihood to directly impact patient care will be given high priority.

Target Audience

- Oncologists and other healthcare professionals involved in the care of patients with Multiple Myeloma, patients and care givers and patient advocacy groups.

Disease Burden Overview

Multiple Myeloma is the third most common hematological malignancy with an incidence of 1465 patients in 2023. (IKNL, hemato-oncologische zorg in Nederland, 2021 and IKNL website).
The relative 5-year survival has steadily increased over the years and is for 2014-2017 at between 73% (18-65 years of age) and 42% (>70 years of age). The overall increase in multiple myeloma incidence and in 5-year survival means that there are more patients who live longer, resulting in an increase on the quality-of-life related issues.

Psychological impact

- Patients with a hematological malignancy indicate that they experience physical and psychosocial effects of the disease (treatment). In a study by IKNL 43% of respondents with Multiple Myeloma indicated in that they experienced a negative impact on daily life, 41% experienced tiredness. But also, around 30% experienced symptoms of depression and social obstacles. (IKNL, hemato-oncologische zorg in Nederland, 2021)

Improving the quality of treatment by investigating better ways to manage (long term) side effects

- In the same study by the IKNL 35% patients indicated that they experienced neuropathy while 24% experienced cognitive limitations.

These numbers indicate the need for supporting patients experiencing these effects. Which was confirmed by the Dutch Cancer Agenda and the European beating cancer plan, that both identified quality of life as gaps that need to be addressed.

Health inequity

- A study by Heijmans et al showed that in the Netherlands 36.4% of adults (>18 years of age) have inadequate or limited health literacy.
- The European Beating Cancer Plan identifies gaps in cancer care for “women, older people, persons with disabilities, and disadvantaged and marginalized groups, like people with a minority racial or ethnic background and people living in poverty”.

Recommendations

The Netherlands Comprehensive Cancer Organization (IKNL), the Dutch Federation of Cancer Patient Organizations (NFK) and the Dutch Cancer Society (KWF) have created the Dutch National Cancer Agenda that identifies and prioritizes gaps in cancer care. This Cancer Agenda is a local implementation of the EU Beating Cancer Plan, which aims to address, amongst other things, cancer inequalities and quality of life for cancer patients, survivors and carers.

Gaps in the Quality of Healthcare Delivery and Possible Barriers

- The treatment of Multiple Myeloma is complicated and constantly changing making it difficult to find solutions that consistently address gaps related to increasing the quality of treatment by investigating better ways to manage (long term) side effects and/or psychological impact.
- Difficulties in explaining complex scientific and medical concepts to patients including those with low health literacy. Patients have different needs and desires regarding the way information is provided.
- Addressing health inequity might be limited by the lack or avoidance of access to healthcare. Certain groups might be hesitant to discuss their disease or the effect of their disease and will be difficult to reach.
- Lack of health literacy and the background of the patient might impact the decisions a patient has to make during his or her diagnosis and treatment, and might also have an impact on the psychological wellbeing of patients.

Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps

- The Dutch Cancer Agenda was created by the Dutch Cancer collective (KWF, IKNL and NFK) to goals for improvement, it is the local adaptation to the EU Beating Cancer Plan.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to €50000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is €150000.

- 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: 29-Aug-24
- Full Proposal Due Date: **30-Oct-24**
- Review of Full Proposals by ERP: November 2024
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: 10-Dec-24

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 ONC NL BOOST MM**
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Oncology – Hematology - Multiple Myeloma**
- 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, Nicola Fenderico (nicola.fenderico@Pfizer.com) with the subject line "2024 ONC NL BOOST MM"

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

- M. Heijmans, A. Brabers & J. Rademakers, Health Literacy in Nederland. Utrecht: Nivel, 2018
- IKNL, hemato-oncologische zorg in Nederland, 2021
- EU Beating Cancer Plan, https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/eu_cancer-plan_en_0.pdf
- The Dutch Cancer Agenda, https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/e6b762fb-1401-43a3-afad-6112d1ddade6/file

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
The local approved QI template will be used. This template complies with local legislation, Gedragscode Geneesmiddelen Reclame (CGR, Code of Conduct, https://cgr.nl/nl-NL/Gedragscode-Geneesmiddelenreclame).

Project titel:	
Projectleider (naam en functie):	
Derde partij / Instelling:	
Datum initiële plan:	
Datum huidige versie:	

Het zorgverbeterplan:

Het zorgverbeterplan bevat een projectomschrijving die minimaal voldoet aan onderstaande criteria:

- Innovatief en/of kwaliteitsverbeterend, het is bijvoorbeeld een pilot en (nog) geen reguliere zorg
- Zorg aan patiënt wordt verbeterd,
- Er is geen regulier budget, ook niet via zorgverzekeraar.

Een aanvraag is compleet met:

1. Een korte lekensamenvatting (maximaal 500 woorden), als voorpagina
2. Officieel verzoek dat voldoet aan bovenstaande criteria, getekend door de instelling. Bij voorkeur op briefpapier van de instelling.
3. Het gevraagde budget is inzichtelijk
4. Het project bevat milestones
5. Het gevraagde budget is verdeeld over de milestones

Let op, een aanvraag is geen garantie of toezegging voor sponsoring. De aanvraag moet voldoen aan de regels van onder andere Code Geneesmiddelen Reclame en anticorruptie regelgeving (UK Bribery Act & USA Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA)). Alleen een volledige aanvraag wordt behandeld.

Project rationale	
Doelgroep	
Projectteam Wie zitten in het projectteam? Van welke organisatie? Wat is hun functie en hun ervaring?	
Projectactiviteiten	
Verplichtingen door wet en regelgeving zoals CGR (gastvrijheid), anti-corruptie, medicijnveiligheid en melden van bijwerkingen, bescherming persoonsgegevens	
Totale budget	
Budget verdeeld over activiteiten	
Andere financiële bronnen	
Milestones in tijdframe	
Milestones gekoppeld aan sponsoring	
Implementatie van de uitkomst	

Bijlagen (bijv. getekende aanvraag op instellingspapier)	

Voor Pfizer intern:

Project eigenaar bij Pfizer (naam en functie)	
Project betrokkenen	

Waarom is dit project Innovatief en/of kwaliteitsverbeterend?	
Welke zorg aan de patiënt wordt verbeterd?	
Implementatie van de uitkomst	
Bewijs van succesvol project	
Timing van evaluatie momenten	
Timing betalingen (let op: de laatste betaling kan pas plaats vinden na de eindevaluatie!)	
Voor goedkeuring, hou er dan rekening mee dat je onderstaande nodig hebt: ☐ Officieel getekend verzoek van aanvrager ☐ Aanvraag voldoet aan de criteria van procedure MAPP ☐ Betalingsgegevens aanvrager ☐ BTW-nummer ☐ Nummer inschrijving Kamer van Koophandel ☐ Uittreksel KvK, niet ouder dan 1 jaar (opvragen bij de aanvrager)	