Pfizer Quality Improvement RFP

Improving Patient Care of Lower Respiratory Tract Infection Among Infants

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

Overview

Through this competitive independent grant program, we aim to support projects to improve healthcare in patients presenting with lower respiratory tract infection. This RFP seeks proposals that focus on improving performance in the management of lower respiratory tract infection patients by healthcare professionals.

Geographic Scope/Location of Project

Thailand

Project Types and Area of Interest

Potential applicants are encouraged to identify the problems, issues, barriers, and gaps in healthcare of patients with lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI), providing approaches to improve patient care, treatment and prevention, putting them in place, and measuring the outcomes of the proposed solutions.

Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **April 23, 2025**
- Anticipated decision notification date: **July 2025**
- Anticipated project start date: **September 2025**

Funding Range and Project Length

Total amount of $100,000 USD will be funded.

Project length: 1-year

Pfizer

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Thailand

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations; government agencies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare improvement.
- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups (i.e., an independent group of physicians not affiliated with a hospital, academic institution, or professional society).
- 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.
- The applicant must be the Project Lead/Principal Investigator (PI) or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., Project Lead/PI's grant/research coordinator).
- The Project Lead/PI must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer International LLC. We strongly recommend that applicants confirm this with their organization or institution prior to submitting an application. Grants awarded to organizations that are subsequently found to be unable to accept funding directly from Pfizer International LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- March 19, 2025

Clinical Area

- Respiratory Tract Infection

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

- It is our intent to support projects that focus on **Improving Patient Management, including Treatment and Prevention of Lower Respiratory Tract Infection among Infants.**

  The focus of the project should evolve around the needs identified from barriers and gaps among patients It is crucial that the initiatives go beyond characterizing or documenting the extent of the problem and instead aim to **inform on actionable strategies and / or established effective practices to improve patient care.**
- 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 will be given high priority. Projects including an educational element can find more information on principals of learning and behavior change for health professionals here.

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

- Pediatricians, Primary Care Physicians, Urgent Care, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Pulmonology, Infectious Disease Specialists
- Infants, focused on 0-1 year of age

Disease Burden Overview

- Lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) is common cause of hospitalization that affects people of all ages. The spectrum of clinical features and severity depends on pathogens and hosts (patients), the common pathogens include pneumococcus, Influenza, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and SARS-CoV-2.

Respiratory tract infection is a burden in infants

- Infants have higher risk of severe outcomes and complications due to underdeveloped immune response.

Early diagnosis and treatment are crucial

- There's evidence regarding association of LRTI with more severe complications and long-term sequelae in infants, as well as decompensation of underlying comorbid conditions (especially cardiopulmonary complications), which underlines the importance of early approach and management, to improve patients' outcomes.

Recommendations and Target Metrics

- In Thailand, Pediatrics Infectious Disease Society of Thailand (PIDST) has issued clinical practice guidelines for management and prevention of LRTI in pediatrics.

Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps

- Clinical manifestations of LRTIs are difficult to distinguish by eventual severity, as they might have non-specific signs and symptoms, and there're limited capability to identify the pathogens in most settings.

Barriers

- Limited resources and awareness among HCPs for LRTI differentiation by clinical severity.

Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps

- None.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to $50,000USD will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $**100,000 USD.** If local currency will be used for the RFP, review Budget Detail section in Appendix, as well.
- 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: **March 19, 2025**
- Full Proposal Due Date: **April 23, 2025**

  Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).

- Review of Full Proposals by ERP: **May 2025**
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: **July 2025**
- 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 "Start a New Quality Improvement Application" button.
- In the application:
  - For the question "Competitive Grant?" select Yes
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: 2025 VAC TH ERP Patients Care in LRTI QI
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: VAV - RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) - 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 the Grant Officer, Juan Liu, (GMGAPAC@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2025 VAC TH ERP Patients Care in LRTI QI ".

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.
- Under Pfizer's competitive grant program, modifications to grant agreements will not be reviewed unless a genuine conflict exists as between applicable law and the terms of the relevant grant agreement. Applicant is encouraged to share the core terms with counsel for approval prior to submitting an application.
- Except where prohibited by applicable law and, in any case, subject to review by Pfizer Legal, payment of grant funding may only be paid to the grantee organization.
- This RFP is supported by Pfizer International LLC and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.

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

- Bibliography of relevant references.

About Pfizer Global Medical Grants

Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships 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 Quality Improvement Project Full Proposal

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 U.S. dollars (USD).
- While estimating your budget please keep the following items in mind:
  - General organizational running costs such as legal fees, insurance, heating, and lighting etc. should be included in an Institutional Overhead (if required). These costs are not specific to a grant request and therefore, should not appear as line items in budgets. However, costs that are specific to the study (e.g., some countries require insurance to be taken out on a per-study basis for clinical research) would be acceptable to be included as line items.
    - The inclusion of overhead costs cannot cause the amount requested to exceed the budget limit set forth in the RFP.
  - 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.
  - 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.