Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Initiatives for Healthcare Professionals to Promote Intramuscular Vaccination Methods for Children

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

Overview

Through the implementation of this project, we support initiatives aimed at promoting intramuscular vaccination methods for children among healthcare professionals involved in pediatric vaccination service

Geographic Scope

Japan

Project Types and Area of Interest

We support the following types of projects aimed at promoting intramuscular vaccination methods for children among healthcare professionals involved in pediatric vaccination services in clinical practice, but not limited to:

- Projects aimed at improving skills and behavioral changes to promote intramuscular vaccination methods for children1.
- Projects that work on establishing intramuscular vaccination methods for children among healthcare professionals involved in vaccination services.
- Projects aimed at eliminating aversion to intramuscular vaccination methods and increasing the intention to choose intramuscular vaccination methods in clinical practice for children

Key Milestones

- Application submission deadline: **June 30, 2025**
- Anticipated decision notification date: **August 31, 2025**
- Anticipated project start date: **October 1, 2025**

Funding Range and Project Length

- Individual projects requesting up to 5,000,000 JPY will be considered.
- Project Execution Period: October 1, 2025 – September 31, 2027 (2years)

Pfizer

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope:

- Japan

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- Only organizations are eligible to receive grants, not individuals or medical practice groups.
  [The following is basic criteria. Please review and change if your specific RFP has narrower criteria]
- 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.
- For projects offering continuing education credit, the requesting organization must be accredited.

II. Requirements

Date RFP Issued

- April 16, 2025

Clinical Area

- Vaccines

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

It is our intent to support projects that focus on projects aimed at promoting intramuscular vaccination methods for children among healthcare professionals involved in pediatric vaccination services in clinical practice. Through the implementation of these projects, the goal is to establish a system that enables healthcare professionals to safely and appropriately practice and promote intramuscular vaccination methods for children.

- 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.
- 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

- Physicians (regardless of specialty), pharmacists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals

Disease Burden Overview

- In the context of pediatric vaccination, intramuscular injection methods are known to cause fewer local reactions such as redness, swelling, and pain compared to subcutaneous injection methods, additionally, the immunogenicity is either equivalent or, for some vaccines, even superior [1-3]. Overseas, intramuscular injection methods are the standard for many vaccines, excluding live vaccines [1].
- On the other hand, in Japan, the Japan Pediatric Society (JPS) considers intramuscular injection methods for pediatric vaccines to be an important medical practice. And JPS submitted the request to allow the intramuscular inoculation method to be performed in addition to the subcutaneous inoculation method [4] and issued to promote the intramuscular injection methods [5]. Consequently, intramuscular injection methods are also introduced for pediatric vaccination in Japan.

Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps

- Currently, many pediatric vaccines, such as such the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine or the five-in-one vaccine, etc. that are given during this period are administered during infancy and early childhood, as outlined in the guidance for National Immunization Program (NIP) [6] and the vaccination schedule recommended by JPS [7] in Japan.
- Simultaneous administration of two or more vaccines to the same recipient is considered an important medical practice to increase vaccination rates, especially during infancy and early childhood when the number of vaccines to be administered is high and the injection sites are limited. This method is commonly practiced oversea [8].
- Therefore, intramuscular injection, which has a wider injection site and fewer local reactions, is considered one of the methods to reduce the burden of vaccination for infants and young children who need to receive multiple vaccines, including simultaneous vaccinations; however, it is assumed that intramuscular injection for children is not widely adopted in Japan.

Barriers

- Given the current situation of pediatric vaccinations in Japan, it is assumed that even pediatricians are not familiar with intramuscular injection methods.
- When both subcutaneous and intramuscular injections are possible, there is a tendency to choose subcutaneous injection as the primary method [1]. Therefore, to bridge the gap in vaccination methods for pediatric vaccinations, it is important to build an environment or improve skills so that healthcare professionals can appropriately implement, establish, and promote intramuscular injection methods for pediatric vaccines in many clinical settings.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

- Individual projects requesting up to 5,000,000 JPY will be considered.
- 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: 4/16/2025
- Full Proposal Due Date: 6/30/2025
  - Please note the deadline is 23:59 Eastern Standard Time (e.g., New York, GMT -5).
- Anticipated Full Proposal Notification Date: 8/31/2025
- 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”.
- Click the "Start a New Quality Improvement Application" button.

In the application:

- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: “2025 VAC JP Promote Intramuscular Vaccination Methods for Children QI”
- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: VAV – General/Non-specific/Other - 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, Akihiro Kamina (meg.japan@pfizer.com), with the subject line “Initiatives for Healthcare Professionals to Promote Intramuscular Vaccination Methods for Children.”

Grant Agreements:

- If your grant is approved, your institution will be required to enter into a written grant agreement with Pfizer International LLC. 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 supported by Pfizer International LLC and, if approved, payment will be sent from the United States.
- 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] Petousis-Harris H. Vaccine injection technique and reactogenicity for practice. Vaccine 2008; 26: 6299-6304
  https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/18804137/
- [2] Mark A, et al. Subcutaneous versus intramuscular injection for booster DT vaccination of adolescents. Vaccine 1999; 17: 2067-72
  https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10217608/
- [3] Carlsson R-M, et al. Studies on a Hib-tetanus toxoid conjugate vaccine: effects of co-administered tetanus toxoid vaccine, of administration route and of combined administration with an inactivated polio vaccine. Vaccine 2000; 18: 468-78
  https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/10519936/
- [4] Japan Pediatric Society: Petition – Modification of the descriptions of intramuscular injections for inactivated vaccines in the package insert
  https://www.jpeds.or.jp/uploads/files/saisin_1106273.pdf
- [5] Japan Pediatric Society: Intramuscular vaccination with vaccines for pediatric (Revised 3rd edition)
  https://www.jpeds.or.jp/uploads/files/20240401_kinchu.pdf
- [6] Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare: Implementation guideline of routine vaccination (Revision on September 27, 2024)
  https://www.mhlw.go.jp/content/001092480.pdf
- [7] Japan Pediatric Society: Recommended vaccination schedule (Revision in October 2024)
  https://www.jpeds.or.jp/uploads/files/20241114_vaccine_schedule.pdf
- [8] Japan Pediatric Society: Opinions on simultaneous administration of two or more vaccines
  https://www.jpeds.or.jp/modules/activity/index.php?content_id=127

About Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships

Pfizer Global Medical Grants & Partnerships (GMGP) 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 GMGP 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

[Use the following text for RFPs that only accept FPs] 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 [adjust as necessary] 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

- [Include only if RFP begins with an LOI stage] A total amount requested is the only information needed for the LOI stage. Full Budget is not required. This amount can be adjusted at the Full Proposal stage as applicable.
- The budget amount requested must be in U.S. dollars (USD). [Revise accordingly if local currency will be used.]
- 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.