Pfizer Research and Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

Optimizing HRRm Testing and Workflow Integration in mCSPC

Overview

This competitive program seeks to address key challenges in HRRm testing (e.g. germline, tissue, or circulating tumour DNA (ctDNA) approaches) in the metastatic castration-sensitive prostate cancer (mCSPC) setting or enhance coordination and workflow integration across these modalities via quality improvement (implementation science) or research.

Geographic Scope

Canada

Project Types and Area of Interest

This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks to fund projects that incorporate robust, long-term sustainability plans. Priority will be given to proposals that clearly demonstrate how their programs can continue to operate in the absence of additional grant funding. Eligible projects may include initiatives that:

- Optimize the HRRm testing process
- Advance equitable and sustainable access
- Strengthen integration within multidisciplinary teams
- Evaluate system performance and real-world outcomes

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award Notification	Anticipated Project Start Date
8 APR 2026	25 MAY 2026	SEP 2026

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting 20,000 CAD to 100,000 CAD will be considered.

Proposals with cost-effective budgets (whether at or below the maximum) and those involving multi-sponsor collaboration are highly encouraged.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Canada

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.
- 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.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Oncology- Genitourinary

Specific Area of Interest for this RFP:

It is not our intent to support clinical research projects. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents (including biomarkers) will not be considered. In addition, education-only based programming and pure validation-only projects (E.g. those limited to technical assay validation without clear linkage to quality improvement, clinical implementation, or system-level impact) will not be eligible under this RFP.

Projects that will be considered for Pfizer support will focus on:

1. Optimize the HRRm testing process

- Define and standardize HRRm testing processes across the full testing pathway, including timing of testing, specimen handling, pre-analytical considerations, ordering workflows, sample processing, reporting, and interpretation – aimed at improving turnaround time, quality, and consistency
- Develop or evaluate early HRRm testing workflows in the mCSPC setting, including testing at diagnosis or prior to progression, aligned with the Canadian Urological Association (CUA) guidelines on genetic testing in prostate cancer

2. Advance equitable and sustainable access

- Identify and address regional or population-based disparities in access to HRRm testing in Canada
- Explore and implement sustainable, adaptable approaches (e.g. centralized, reflex, or mainstream models) suitable for community or academic settings

3. Strengthen the multidisciplinary team integration

- Improve coordination across pathology, urology, medical oncology, radiation oncology, genetic counselling, and allied health teams (e.g. pharmacists, nurses) to support seamless test ordering, interpretation, and follow-up.
- Leverage digital or clinical tools to improve communication, referral tracking, or integration of test results, including decision support tools or automated alerts to support seamless clinical decision-making and timely test ordering

4. Evaluate system performance and real-world outcomes

- Measure HRRm testing rates, real-world prevalence, turnaround times, and alignment with CUA guideline recommendations, including reporting of expanded HRRm results, beyond BRCA1/2
- Assess the impact of optimized testing processes on clinical workflow efficiency, time to referral, genetic counseling uptake, and familial risk identification in the mCSPC population. Examples of measurable outcomes may include, but are not limited to:
  - Improvement in HRRm testing rates (e.g. absolute or relative change)
  - Reduction in turnaround time from test order to result by X% or by X number of days
  - Increased screening and referral for hereditary testing by X number of eligible patients

Target Audience

- Target applicants include oncologists, urologists, radiation oncologists, nurses, pharmacists, advanced practice providers and other members of the multi-disciplinary team treating patients with prostate cancer in diverse settings (including academic and community settings).
- Target population is adult patients with metastatic-castration sensitive prostate cancer (mCSPC).

Recommendations and Target Metrics

- Applicants are encouraged to utilize established guidelines for prostate cancer care and evidence-based metrics in the design of their Quality Improvement or research proposals.

Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications

IMPORTANT: 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.

- Individual projects requesting 20,000 CAD to 100,000 CAD will be considered. Proposals with cost-effective budgets (whether at or below the maximum) and those involving multi-sponsor collaboration are highly encouraged.
- 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:

IMPORTANT: Be advised applications submitted after the due date will not be reviewed.

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

How to Submit:

IMPORTANT: Please read this section carefully since applications submitted not following these instructions will not be accepted and will be cancelled.

- To submit a Research project, please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/Research and sign in.
- To submit a QI project, please go to www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/QI and sign in.
    - Note: there are individual portals for each grant application type. Please be sure to use the URL above.
    - First-time users should click "Create your password". Applicants are encouraged to do this before official submission date, as some organizations may need to provide additional business documentation.
- Click the "**Start A New Application**" button.
- Requirements for submission:
    - Complete all required sections of the online application
    - **IMPORTANT:** Upload proposal (see Appendix) in the Proposal/Protocol field.
- In the application:
    - For the question "**Competitive Grant?**" select "**Yes**"
    - Select the following Primary Area of Interest: **Oncology - Genitourinary**
    - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 ONC CAN QI/RES HRRm Testing in mCSPC**

Questions:

- If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click here or the "Technical Questions" link at the bottom of the page in cybergrants.
- Please click here to view "Frequently Asked Questions" regarding the Competitive Grant Program.
- If you have questions regarding this RFP, please direct them in writing to the Grant Officer, Yingying (Elena) Huang (yingying.huang@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2026 ONC CAN QI/RES HRRm Testing in mCSPC, Jan 2026"

Review and Approval Process

- Grant requests received in response to a specific RFP are reviewed by 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.

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.

About Research Grants

Pfizer 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 competitive grant program involves a publicly posted general Request for Proposal (RFP) that provides detail regarding a general 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 research gaps as outlined in the specific RFP.

For all quality improvement grants, Investigator Sponsored Research (ISRs) and general research grants, the grant requester (and ultimately the grantee) is responsible for the design, implementation, sponsorship, and conduct of the independent initiative supported by the grant, including compliance with any regulatory requirements. Pfizer must not be involved in any aspect of study protocol or project development, nor the conduct or monitoring of the research program. An ISR grant request cannot be submitted for a study that has already commenced and was not originally supported by Pfizer.

About QI Grants

Quality improvement (QI) projects are systematic, data-guided, sustainable activities designed to bring about immediate, positive changes in the delivery of healthcare in particular setting [1,2]. Quality improvement seeks to standardize structure and processes to reduce variation, achieve predictable results, and improve outcomes for patients, healthcare systems, and organizations. Structure includes things like technology, culture, leadership, and physical capital. Process includes knowledge capital (e.g., standard operating procedures) or human capital (e.g., education and training) [3].

QI projects systematically apply what is already known into the local practice, intended to quickly improve patient care within a specific setting. The goal of QI projects is to close a gap in performance at a specific

health care system. The “performance” is a standard in health care that is not efficiently/appropriately/consistently being done [4]. For these reasons, QI focuses on translating existing knowledge into programs or practices to immediately improve the quality of services to individuals and populations within a local institution or setting [5]. The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care [6] since the standard of care remains the same for all patients.

In contrast, research projects use a systematic approach to discover something that is unknown. Research projects add new knowledge to what was previously unknown in literature through testing of a hypothesis or a scientific question [4]. Research aims to generate knowledge with broad applications, often through controlled studies. The subjects may or may not benefit directly from the knowledge gained. Research studies aim to evaluate an innovation, study something new, or analyze a process not yet rigorously studied [6].

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.

References

1. Baily MA, et al., Hastings Cent Rep, 2006.
2. Lynn J, et al., Ann Intern Med, 2007.
3. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Page Last Modified: 09/10/2024.
4. Jackson C, Research Quality Manager, Office of Research and Scholarship University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Nursing.
5. Columbia University Institutional Review Board Guidance for the Classification of Quality Improvement Activities Versus Research with human Subjects, 2023.
6. Newhouse et al., J Nurs Adm, 2006.ibliography of relevant references.

Appendix

IMPORTANT: 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.

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 Canada dollars (CAD).
- 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 these 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 Pfizer 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.

Required Documents

- Project Plan or Proposal