Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Pfizer Internal Review Process

Improving quality of care for patients with Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma (RRMM) treated with BCMA BsAbs

Overview

Multiple Myeloma (MM) accounts for approximately 1% of all cancer diagnoses worldwide (1). In Italy, MM represents 1.6% of all cancers diagnosed in men and 1.5% of those diagnosed in women (2). Bispecific antibodies (BsAbs) have emerged as a significant advancement in MM treatment, offering high effectiveness and specificity by targeting different antigens such as B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA). As clinicians and patients embrace advances in the therapeutic landscape, the aim of this competitive grant program is to support quality improvement (QI) projects that address known gaps in the therapy management of bispecifics and the multidisciplinary care of patients with RRMM, with a particular focus on the prevention, early detection, and management of infections and emerging adverse events associated with subcutaneous (sc) BCMA BsAbs.

Geographic Scope

Italy

Project Types and Area of Interest

Potential applicants are encouraged to identify and address the educational needs, barriers and gaps for optimizing RRMM patient management. This may include:

- **Clinical Process Optimization**
- **Education & Empowerment (Healthcare professionals [HCPs], caregivers and patients)**
- **Technology-Enabled Quality Improvement**

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award Notification	Anticipated Project Start Date
20 MAR 2026	MAY 2026	JUN 2026

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to **EUR 85,000.00** will be considered.

However, for large-scale and/or particularly innovative projects, Pfizer may consider requests for higher budget amounts but the rationale and details of this should be clearly outlined in the proposal.

Maximum project length is up to **18 months**.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Italy

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 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 LLC may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Oncology - Hematologic - QI

General 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 will not be considered. Projects focused on development of new biomarker technology/techniques will not be considered.

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

- Optimizing outpatient step-up dosing procedures (e.g., evolving streamlined ambulatory step-up protocols, implementing nurse-led observation pathways, enhancing reduced-monitoring models supported by digital triage tools).
- Develop comprehensive education tools for HCPs to enhance clinical knowledge and practice (e.g., interactive digital toolkits, case-based symptom recognition videos, standardized monitoring and escalation checklists).
- Optimization of existing evidence-based tools/scoring for infection risk stratification (e.g., implementing predictive scoring systems for infection risk, integrating infectious-disease consult triggers).
- Implement an existing real time AI enabled symptom monitoring system (e.g., including mobile applications with automated alerts, established AI based detection tools for early Cytokine Release Syndrome/ Immune Effector Cell Associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome [CRS]/[ICANS] patterns, and dashboards for remote clinical surveillance — to improve efficiency in symptom assessment).
- Developing structured patient and caregiver education tools (e.g., interactive digital toolkits, symptom-recognition videos, printed checklists for home monitoring and escalation triggers).

- Establishing standardized, proactive follow-up pathways (e.g., weekly digital assessments, automated follow-up reminders, multidisciplinary toxicity-review rounds).
- Integrate existing AI driven digital solutions into routine practice (e.g. including Electronic Health Records [EHR] embedded AI modules, automated triage assistants, and established machine learning risk flags, to standardize workflows, improve patients care).
- Strengthening multidisciplinary, coordinated therapy-management models (e.g., structured collaboration between hematology, infectious diseases, emergency care, and nursing; unified escalation algorithms; cross-center alignment workshops).
- Supporting standardized care pathways to improve access and reduce hospital burden (e.g., hub and spoke models for therapy administration, remote monitoring to limit hospital visits, standardized protocols replicable across centers).
- Optimize the management and detection of emerging adverse events (e.g., implementing real-time monitoring dashboards, standardizing early-warning checklists, and adopting existing symptom tracking and automated signal detection tools).

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 **up to EUR 85,000.00** will be considered. However, for large-scale and/or particularly innovative projects, Pfizer may consider requests for higher budget amounts but the rationale and details of this should be clearly outlined in the proposal.
- The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is **EUR 250,000.00.**
- Award amounts include direct costs, institutional overhead costs (capped at 28% per Pfizer policy), and indirect costs.

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.

- 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".
- Click the "**Start A New Quality Improvement Grant 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 - Hematologic - QI**
  - Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: **2026 ONC Italy Multiple Myeloma QI**

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, Nicola Fenderico (nicola.fenderico@pfizer.com), with the subject line "**2026 ONC Italy Multiple Myeloma QI**"

Review and Approval Process

- Grant requests received in response to a general RFP are reviewed by Pfizer to make final grant decisions.
- For selected projects: Pfizer will support only those projects for which an executed copy of the Agreement, the Protocol, and documentation of IRB/IEC approval, regulatory approval (if applicable), exemption, or waiver have been received by 15 November 2026.

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 and, if approved the payment will be issued by a Pfizer US based legal entity.

About Pfizer 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 internal Pfizer review process 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, 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.

About Pfizer 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 (3, 4). 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) (5).

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 (6). 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 (7). The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care (8) 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 (6). 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 (8).

References

1. Sung H, Ferlay J, Siegel RL, Laversanne M, Soerjomataram I, Jemal A, Bray F. Global Cancer Statistics 2020: GLOBOCAN Estimates of Incidence and Mortality Worldwide for 36 Cancers in 185 Countries. CA Cancer J Clin. 2021.
2. www.airc.it/cancro/informazioni-tumori/guida-ai-tumori/mieloma-multiplo. Accessed 01/13/2026.
3. Baily MA, et al., Hastings Cent Rep, 2006.
4. Lynn J, et al., Ann Intern Med, 2007.
5. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Page Last Modified: 09/10/2024.
6. Jackson C, Research Quality Manager, Office of Research and Scholarship University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Nursing.
7. Columbia University Institutional Review Board Guidance for the Classification of Quality Improvement Activities Versus Research with human Subjects, 2023.
8. Newhouse et al., J Nurs Adm, 2006

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 EURO (EUR).
- 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 ER&G 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
- Initial Study Protocol