

# The Japanese Headache Society / Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Expert Review Panel

## Efforts to Improve Quality of Migraine Care



### Overview

This is a request for proposal (RFP) covering a competitive bidding on grant projects to be sponsored by the Japanese Headache Society and Pfizer in the area of migraine.

We are supporting projects in the area of migraine, aimed specifically in navigating behavioral changes to facilitate early diagnosis and appropriate treatment to improve the quality of healthcare surrounding migraine.



### Geographic Scope

Japan



### Project Types and Area of Interest

This RFP targets migraine and covers grants for projects aimed at promoting behavioral change among healthcare professionals and improving the quality of medical care, specifically by:

- Building a mechanism to change behaviors of patients who require treatment but have not sought medical consultation;
- Facilitating cooperation between expert doctors and non-expert doctors;
- Promoting early diagnosis and appropriate treatment (by disseminating specialized knowledge);
- Assisting children and adolescents with migraine to understand the disease; and
- Educating school physicians, industrial physicians, public health nurses, and pharmacists to improve their comprehensive knowledge and disease awareness.
- Building and implementing programs to support headache education in workplaces and schools



### Key Milestones



### Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to 1.2 M JPY will be considered.

Project Duration : Dec 1, 2026 – Nov 30, 2028 ( up to 2 years)



## I. Eligibility

---

### Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

Japan

### 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

---

### Primary Area of Interest:

- Migraine (including pediatric migraine)

### 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 will not be considered.*

This RFP covers grants to support programs intended to improve medical and scientific knowledges among healthcare and related professionals and to navigate their behavioral changes toward optimized diagnosis and treatment so that migraine patients can timely access clinical healthcare and necessary information related to migraine.

Currently, in the area of migraine, the following issues have been raised:

- Quite a few patients rely on OTC analgesics for self-treatment without seeking medical consultation<sup>1) 2)</sup>. These patients are vulnerable to a risk of chronic migraine and medication-overuse headache (MOH) due to prolonging and inadequate self-treatment with a lack of appropriate medical intervention in line with the degree of severity.
- Treatment surrounding migraine which causes a great deal of interference to daily activities has been going through big changes recently; both in Japan and overseas, there is an increasing awareness on the significance of prophylactic therapy for migraine. For early diagnosis and proper treatment of migraine, it is desirable that the latest knowledge is shared among doctors who are non-specialists of headache and likely involved in the initial phase of treatment, and that they strengthen ties with specialists.
- Early diagnosis is difficult in children and adolescent migraine patients because they may present with a different clinical symptom than adult patients. Furthermore, the lack of understanding and



knowledge of migraine among family members surrounding the patient, school-related personnel, and occupational physicians in the workplace suggests that opportunities for early treatment intervention may be lost due to lost opportunity to seek medical care.

With such background, this RFP targets the following “Target Audience” and covers grants for projects aimed at improving the quality of medical care in the area of migraine, specifically by:

- Building a mechanism to change behaviors of patients who require treatment but have not sought medical consultation;
- Facilitating cooperation between expert doctors and non-expert doctors;
- Promoting early diagnosis and appropriate treatment (by disseminating specialized knowledge);
- Assisting children and adolescents with migraine to understand the disease; and
- Educating school physicians, industrial physicians, public health nurses, and pharmacists to improve their comprehensive knowledge and disease awareness.
- Building and implementing programs to support headache education in workplaces and schools

Please note that the following descriptions are provided as examples only. Any project that aligns with the objectives of this grant will be considered eligible for application.

Eligible projects include educational initiatives aimed at improving knowledge, as well as projects that incorporate the development of systems or mechanisms to translate knowledge into practice and/or to ensure that practical efforts lead to measurable outcomes.

## Target Audience

Healthcare and related professionals involved in migraine treatment (school nurses, teachers, public health nurses, pharmacists, etc.)

## Recommendations and Target Metrics

Clinical Practice Guideline for Headache 2021 (Supervision: the Japanese Society of Neurology, the Japanese Headache Society, the Japanese Society of Neurological Therapeutics)

## Disease Burden Overview

- Migraine is one of the most common diseases, and the prevalence of migraine in Japan is estimated to be 8.4%<sup>3)</sup>. Most of the affected patients are women in their 30s and 40s, and this age group is also involved in employment and child rearing. Thus, the social impact of the disease is significant<sup>3)</sup>.
- On the other hand, as an epidemiological reality of migraine in children and adolescents in Japan, a survey conducted by an educational institution reported the prevalence of 3.5% in elementary school students<sup>4)</sup>, 4.8%<sup>5)</sup> to 5.0%<sup>4)</sup> in junior high school students, and 9.8% in high school students<sup>6)</sup>, suggesting that the number of affected patients is not small as well as the incidence of migraine in this age group<sup>1)</sup>.
- Despite the fact that migraine is ranked as the second most disruptive disease in daily life in a WHO survey reported in 2019, it has been pointed out that many migraine patients do not seek medical care<sup>3) 7) 8)</sup>.

## 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 1.2 M JPY will be considered.

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.

- Please go to <http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/loi> 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 LOI” button.

Requirements for submission: Complete all required sections of the online application (see Appendix) .

In the application:

- Select the following Primary Area of Interest: *Pain - Migraine - LOI*
- Select the following Competitive Grant Program Name: *2026 IM JP JHS Migraine 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, Akihiro Kamina ([meg.japan@pfizer.com](mailto:meg.japan@pfizer.com)), with the subject line “Efforts to Improve Quality of Migraine Medical Care”

## 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 primarily of specialists selected by the Japanese Society for Cutaneous Immunology and Allergy.



## 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.
- Selected projects are expected to receive an award at the academic meeting (in the first year) and present their results (poster presentation) after the project concludes.
- If any changes arise in the submitted application content (plan, schedule, use of funds, project members, etc.) due to unavoidable circumstances after the grant agreement has been executed, please be sure to contact us.
- Institutions (organizations) will be required to present the summary/the results of the project at the Annual Meeting of the Japanese Headache Society.
- If your project was selected for the “The Japanese Headache Society/Pfizer Publicly Invited Medical Education Project Grants” for FY2024 and has still been in progress at the time of application, you are not eligible to apply for this RFP. However, if your project was selected in FY2024 and has been completed at the time of application, you may apply to this RFP.
- Applicants who were selected for the FY2025 “Efforts to Improve Quality of Migraine Medical Care” are not eligible to apply for this call if their project is still ongoing at the time of application. However, applications from a different applicant within the same institution or organization are permitted. Applicants whose FY2025 projects have been completed by the time of application are eligible to apply.

## 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 The Japan Headache Society

The Japanese Headache Society has entered into a partnership agreement with Pfizer to implement innovative education and transformation strategies.

The Japanese Headache Society is a group of physicians, dentists, and healthcare professionals who are interested in headache, aiming to improve headache care in Japan and contribute to the promotion of the health and welfare of people. We are working to disseminate information and knowledge concerning headache and related medical care, promote scientific researches on headache disorders, and develop preventive and therapeutic treatment for headache, which many people suffer from.

## 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 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, 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 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<sup>10,11</sup>. 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)<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>13</sup>. 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<sup>14</sup>. The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care<sup>15</sup> 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<sup>13</sup>. 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<sup>15</sup>.

## References

- 1) Takeshima T, et al. Prevalence, burden, and clinical management of migraine in China, Japan, and South Korea: a comprehensive review of the literature. *J Headache Pain*. 2019;20:111.
- 2) Hirata K, et al. Comprehensive population-based survey of migraine in Japan: results of the observational Survey of the Epidemiology, tReatment, and Care Of Migraine (OVERCOME [Japan]) study. *Curr Med Res Opin*. 2021;37:1945-55
- 3) Sakai F, et al: Prevalence of migraine in Japan: a nationwide survey. *Cephalagia*. 1997;17:15-22.
- 4) Goto M, et al: Characteristics of headaches in Japanese elementary and junior high school students: A school-based questionnaire survey. *Brain Dev*. 2017;39:791-8.
- 5) Ando N, et al: Prevalence and features of migraine in Japanese junior high school students aged 12-15 yr, *Brain Dev*. 2007;29:482-5.
- 6) Suzuki S, et al: The prevalence and character of primary headache in Japanese high school students. *Rinsho Shinkeigaku*. 2005;45:717-23.
- 7) Global, regional, and national burden of migraine and tension-type headache, 1990-2016: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2016. *Lancet Neurol*. 2018;17:954-76.
- 8) Sakai F and Igarashi H. A study to investigate the prevalence of headache disorders and migraine among people registered in a health insurance association in Japan. *J Headache Pain*. 2022;23:70.
- 9) Baily MA, et al., Hastings Cent Rep, 2006.
- 10) Lynn J, et al., Ann Intern Med, 2007.
- 11) Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Page Last Modified: 09/10/2024.
- 12) Jackson C, Research Quality Manager, Office of Research and Scholarship University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Nursing.
- 13) Columbia University Institutional Review Board Guidance for the Classification of Quality Improvement Activities Versus Research with human Subjects, 2023.
- 14) Newhouse et al., J Nurs Adm, 2006. bibliography of relevant references.



## Appendix

---

### IMPORTANT: RFP Submission Requirements

Applications will be accepted via the online portal listed in the How to Submit section.

#### 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 Japanese YEN (JPY).

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

