Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Pfizer Internal Review Process

Implementing and Scaling System-Level Solutions for the HRRm Testing Pathway in Metastatic Prostate Cancer

Overview

This competitive grant program seeks to fund practice-based Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives designed to implement, evaluate, and scale systemic solutions that address the most critical barriers within the Homologous Recombination Repair mutation (HRRm) testing pathway for metastatic prostate cancer (mPC).

This RFP is focused on moving beyond education to support multidisciplinary teams in re-engineering their clinical workflows. The goal is to fund projects that will create more efficient, reliable, and standardized systems for delivering HRRm testing to patients while simultaneously reducing the administrative and operational burden on all clinicians involved in the testing pathway, particularly those in community or office-based settings. Projects should prioritize sustainable, system-level interventions capable of demonstrating measurable improvements in appropriate HRRm testing rates, testing continuity, result utilization, or care coordination. A core principle of this RFP is that proposed solutions must demonstrate applicability in both academic and community practice settings, ensuring that improvements in care can reach a broad patient population.

Geographic Scope

Global (ex-US) with priority in Europe (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom), Asia-Pacific region (Australia and China)

Project Types and Area of Interest

Proposals must be structured as a formal QI project and address one or more of the following high-impact domains:

- *Domain 1: Implementing Best Practices to Improve Sample Quality for HRRm Testing Across Local Care Settings*
- *Domain 2: Designing and Piloting a Scalable Multidisciplinary Coordination Blueprint*
- *Domain 3: Developing and Evaluating Reflex Testing Models*
- *Domain 4: Implementation Science and Technology-Enabled Workflow Optimization*

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award	Anticipated Project Start Date
08 OCT 2026	NOV 2026	DEC 2026

Funding Range and Project Length

Total available budget related to this RFP is approximately $200,000.00. Individual projects requesting up to $100,000 will be considered. Smaller projects are also encouraged (e.g., $75,000).

Maximum project length is 18 months.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Global (ex-US) with priority in Europe (France, Germany, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom), Asia-Pacific region (Australia and China)

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The following may apply: medical, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy professional schools; healthcare institutions (both large and small); professional organizations/medical societies; medical education companies; and other entities with a mission related to healthcare professional education and/or 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).
- If the project involves multiple departments within an institution and/or between different institutions / organizations / associations, all institutions must have a relevant role and the requesting organization must have a key role in the project.
- The applicant must be the project/program lead or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., project/program lead's grant coordinator).
- The project/program lead must be an employee or contractor of the requesting organization.
- Requesting organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Pfizer Inc. 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 Inc. may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Oncology – Genitourinary - 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. Acceptable projects may evaluate workflow implementation, operational feasibility, adoption, testing continuity, turnaround time, sample adequacy, care coordination, and other process or quality outcomes. Projects designed to evaluate analytical validity, clinical validity, diagnostic accuracy, diagnostic product performance, therapeutic efficacy, or product-specific treatment outcomes are out of scope.

Proposed interventions, tools, workflows, EMR prompts, and clinical decision-support approaches must be non-promotional, guideline-concordant, locally compliant, and not specific to any Pfizer product or branded therapeutic pathway. Projects should focus on improving HRRm testing processes and care coordination rather than directing treatment selection.

Proposed projects should be structured as formal QI initiatives with clearly defined baseline gaps, a specific intervention, measurable process and/or outcome metrics, a pre/post or other appropriate comparator evaluation approach, and a plan for sustainability and potential scalability beyond the initial project setting.

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

Domain 1: Implementing Best Practices to Improve Sample Quality for HRRm Testing Across Local Care Settings

- Projects in this domain should focus on implementing and measuring the impact of locally adapted best practices and toolkits designed to reduce sample failure rates for HRRm testing.
- Examples of supported initiatives include:
  - The local implementation and adoption of a sample adequacy checklist for use at biopsy sites.
  - The rollout of standardized pre-analytic SOPs for sample handling and lab extraction, and the measurement of both their adoption (e.g., adherence to new protocols) and their impact (e.g., on sample failure rates). Projects may also evaluate workflows that optimize specimen selection, including the appropriate use of tissue- and blood-based testing approaches to improve sample adequacy and reduce delays in obtaining test results.
- Examples of Measurable Outcomes for this Domain:
  - Demonstrate a measurable reduction in sample failure rates relative to baseline.
  - Increased adoption of evidence-based decalcification protocols for bone specimens, where applicable, to preserve nucleic acid quality for HRRm testing.
  - Increase in sample adequacy at the point of collection.

Domain 2: Designing and Piloting a Scalable Multidisciplinary Coordination Blueprint

- Projects in this domain should focus on designing, piloting, and evaluating an actionable and scalable coordination model for the end-to-end HRRm testing workflow.
- Examples of supported initiatives include:
  - The implementation of standardized cross-specialty workflows that outline HRRm test-ordering responsibilities and post-result care coordination processes.
  - Piloting of innovative coordination models explicitly designed to minimize the perceived 'extra work' and time commitment for referring specialists, thereby addressing key practical barriers to test ordering and follow-through in busy clinical settings.
  - The integration of standardized forms or EMR-based prompts and clinical decision support tools to improve guideline adherence. Any EMR-based prompts, standardized forms, or clinical decision-support tools should be based on recognized clinical guidelines and local institutional policies, be non-promotional, and avoid recommending specific branded therapies or product-specific treatment sequencing.
  - Development of multidisciplinary pathways linking tumor testing, germline assessment, genetic counseling, and longitudinal follow-up.
- Examples of Measurable Outcomes for this Domain:
  - Improved HRRm testing rates (measured as an absolute or relative change).
  - Improved HRRm testing continuity (i.e., a reduction in patients who drop off at various points in the testing pathway).

Domain 3: Developing and Evaluating Reflex Testing Models

- Projects in this domain should focus on developing and evaluating institution- or country-appropriate reflex testing models that improve HRRm testing continuity and timeliness while remaining consistent with applicable clinical guidelines, local regulations, consent requirements, reimbursement pathways, institutional policies, and genetic testing standards.
- Examples of models for evaluation include:
  - Evaluation of institution- or country-specific reflex testing models that are consistent with local regulations, consent and data privacy requirements, reimbursement pathways, institutional workflows, and standards of care.
  - Tumor board-triggered reflex HRRm testing.
  - Evaluation of locally appropriate ctDNA reflex HRRm testing workflows when tissue-based testing fails, is not feasible, or is expected to cause clinically meaningful delays, provided such workflows are permitted by local regulations, reimbursement pathways, consent requirements, institutional policies, and applicable genetic testing standards.
- Examples of Measurable Outcomes for this Domain:
  - Increased HRRm testing rates.
  - Reduced turnaround time (TAT) from diagnosis to result.
  - Reduction in the time from testing eligibility to test ordering.

Domain 4: Implementation Science and Technology-Enabled Workflow Optimization

- Projects in this domain should focus on using implementation science methodologies or technology to identify and address gaps in the testing pathway. Projects should evaluate or implement existing tools or workflows; proposals primarily focused on developing new software, new AI models, new digital products, algorithms, diagnostics, or commercial technology products are out of scope.
- Examples of supported initiatives include:
  - Implementation Science Mapping: Fund a multi-site, multi-country implementation analysis to identify where gaps and delays occur in the HRRm testing pathway with a specific focus on clinician friction points, administrative hurdles, and other workflow inefficiencies that lead to testing not being ordered or completed. Deliverables would include testing continuity heatmaps and data-driven recommendations for system improvement and digital workflow redesign.
  - Technology-enabled workflow optimization or decision-support solutions that are already developed and available for implementation or evaluation within clinical practice. Examples may include existing digital tools designed to facilitate interpretation, communication, or integration of HRRm testing results into clinical workflows. Projects should focus on implementation, adoption, evaluation, and measurement of impact rather than the development of new technologies.

Target Audience

- Medical oncologists, urologists, uro-oncologists, radiation oncologists, pathologists, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, genetic counselors, and other healthcare professionals involved in the care and treatment of patients with mPC.

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 $100,000 will be considered. Smaller projects are also encouraged (e.g. $75,000). 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.

- Click here to navigate to this Competitive Grant Program's unique Program Application Form: Login
  - First-time users should create a Requester Portal account by clicking **Not a member?**
- OR
- Navigate to: https://pfizermarcie.my.site.com/pfzrequester and sign in.
- In the upper navigation bar, click **Grant Programs** to see all available programs.
- Select **Quality Improvement**
- Click **Apply** on the **2026 ONC ExUS Metastatic Prostate Cancer** QI to open the Program Application Form.
- Requirements for submission:
  - Complete all required sections of the online application
  - **IMPORTANT:** Upload proposal (see Appendix) in the Proposal/Protocol field.

- For more information on navigating Pfizer's new grant management system (MARCIE), please refer to this helpful User Guide.

Questions:

- 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 "Implementing and Scaling System-Level Solutions for the HRRm Testing Pathway in Metastatic Prostate Cancer Sep 2026"

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 December 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 Inc. 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 (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).

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 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 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/Proposal or Meeting Agenda
- Applicants must indicate whether Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Ethics Committee (EC) approval is required for the proposed project and, if applicable, provide details on the anticipated approval process and timeline.