

Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Pfizer Internal Review Process

Implementation of an Integrated Precision Care Pathway Program for Metastatic Prostate Cancer

Overview

This competitive grant program seeks to support practice-based Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives that improve healthcare delivery and implement integrated precision care pathways for patients with metastatic prostate cancer. Projects should address measurable gaps in Homologous Recombination Repair (HRR) biomarker testing, multidisciplinary care coordination, patient engagement, and treatment-related safety management through targeted workflow and system-level improvements. Proposed interventions should demonstrate measurable improvements in care processes and quality, with sustainable and scalable solutions that can be integrated into routine practice across academic and community settings.

Geographic Scope

Mainland China

Project Types and Area of Interest

Applicants are encouraged to address key gaps and barriers in local care delivery. This may include:

- Improving adherence to evidence-based biomarker testing and treatment pathways for personalized care.
- Improving safety monitoring and adverse event management to support treatment adherence and outcomes.
- Enhancing patient engagement and health literacy to support informed treatment decisions.

Key Milestones

Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award	Anticipated Project Start Date
14 Jan 2027	26 Mar 2027	25 Jun 2027

Funding Range and Project Length

The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $220,000. Individual projects requesting up to $55,000 will be considered.

Maximum project length is 2 years.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

- Mainland China

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 Investment Co., Ltd. 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 Investment Co., Ltd. may be subject to rescission.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

- Oncology – Genitourinary

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:

1. Improving adherence to evidence-based biomarker and genetic testing and treatment pathways to facilitate personalized care in metastatic prostate cancer.
2. Improving treatment-related safety monitoring and adverse event management to maximize treatment adherence and clinical outcomes.
3. Enhancing patient engagement, communication, and health literacy to support informed treatment decisions and continuity of care.

- Multi-disciplinary collaborations are encouraged when appropriate, but all partners must have a relevant role.
- It is expected that projects will be evidence-based (education and/or quality improvement) and the proposed 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 principles 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.

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 metastatic prostate cancer (mPC).

Disease Burden Overview

- Prostate cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers among men worldwide. In 2022, approximately 1.47 million new cases and nearly 400,000 deaths were reported globally, making it the second most commonly diagnosed cancer among men[1].
- In China, the incidence and disease burden of prostate cancer continue to increase. Advanced disease is associated with substantial morbidity, impaired quality of life, and increased healthcare utilization[2-3].
- Advances in androgen receptor pathway inhibitors (ARPIs), PARP inhibitors, and precision medicine have expanded treatment options for advanced prostate cancer. Effective personalized care requires timely biomarker testing, evidence-based treatment selection, and appropriate management of treatment-related adverse events[4-5].
- Despite guideline recommendations, gaps remain in biomarker testing and the implementation of biomarker-informed care[5]. Quality improvement initiatives are therefore needed to strengthen testing pathways, treatment decision-making, multidisciplinary care, and safety management.

Recommendations and Target Metrics

- Biomarker-informed care remains variable, with gaps in testing, treatment pathways, and safety management.
- Priority should focus on improving testing uptake, care coordination, safety monitoring, and patient engagement.
- Projects should demonstrate measurable and sustainable improvements through data-driven QI approaches.

Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps

- Despite guideline recommendations, gaps remain in biomarker testing, including germline and somatic testing for HRR gene alterations, which may limit timely identification of patients eligible for biomarker-informed treatment. Variability also exists in the integration of biomarkers result in treatment decision-making across institutions.
- Gaps in treatment-related safety monitoring, multidisciplinary coordination, and patient engagement may further affect treatment adherence and continuity of care.
- Quality improvement initiatives are needed to establish integrated precision care pathways, improve biomarker testing and evidence-based treatment decision-making, and strengthen proactive safety management.

Barriers

- Healthcare professional barriers: Variability in awareness of biomarker testing recommendations, interpretation of genetic test results, and experience with precision medicine.
- Healthcare system barriers: Limited access to testing, complex workflows, prolonged turnaround times, fragmented referral pathways, and insufficient multidisciplinary coordination.
- Patient-related barriers: Limited understanding of biomarker testing and personalized treatment, as well as insufficient education and engagement in treatment and adverse event management.
- These barriers highlight the need for standardized, multidisciplinary, and system-based QI interventions that improve the consistency and continuity of precision care.

Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps

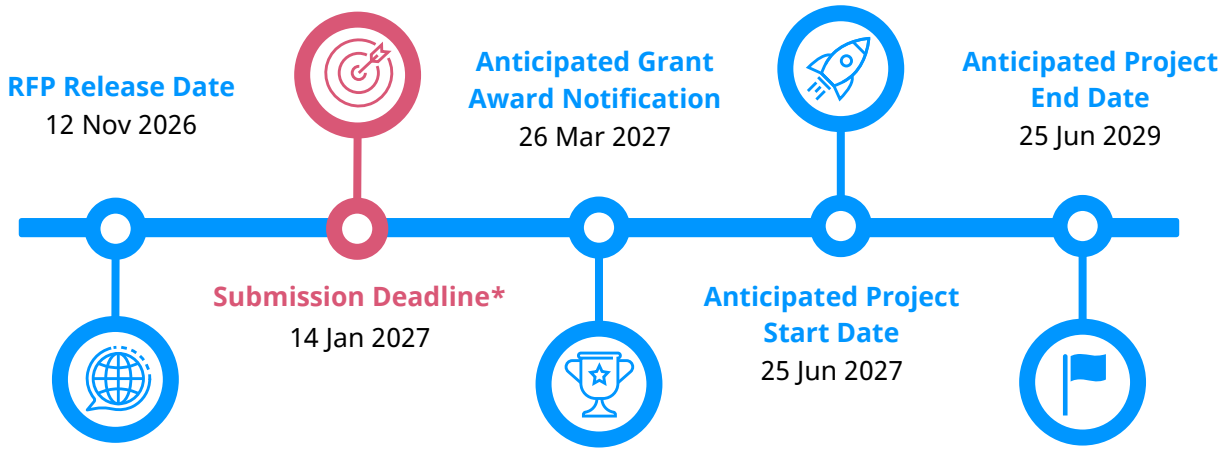
- Clinical practice guidelines in China increasingly support standardized prostate cancer management, including biomarker-informed and multidisciplinary care approaches[6-7]. However, variation in implementation across clinical settings highlights the continued need for quality improvement initiatives that translate guideline recommendations into sustainable routine practice.

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 $55,000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $220,000.
- 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.
  - 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 **2027 ONC CN 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, Juan Liu (GMGChina@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2027 ONC CN Prostate Cancer QI-12NOV2026".

Review and Approval Process

- Grant requests received in response to a general RFP are reviewed by Pfizer to make final grant decisions.

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. Applicants are 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 Investment Co., Ltd. and, if approved the payment will be issued by a Pfizer China 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 a particular setting [8,9]. 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) [10].

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 [11]. 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 [12]. The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care [13] 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 [11]. 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[13].

References

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5. Sokolova AO, Cheng HH. Germline and Somatic Testing in Advanced Prostate Cancer: Current Status and Future Perspectives. J Clin Oncol. 2023.
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11. Jackson C, Research Quality Manager, Office of Research and Scholarship University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Nursing.
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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 Chinese Yuan (CNY).
- 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
- IRB approval if applicable
- Organizations must obtain approval from an Institutional Review Board (IRB) for their proposal to be eligible to receive the grant award if IRB approval is required for study execution. It is not mandatory to have IRB approval at the time of proposal submission. However, organizations are anticipated to secure an IRB evaluation subsequent to the award notification and must ensure that the approval is in place prior to the 25th of June 2027.