

Pfizer Quality Improvement Request for Proposals

Competitive Grant Program – using Pfizer Internal Review Process

Quality Improvement Interventions to Enhance the Care of Patients Infected by MBL-CRE or S. maltophilia

Overview

This RFP invites Quality Improvement proposals aimed at developing and implementing interventions to standardize and enhance the local care pathway for adult patients with infections caused by MBL-producing Enterobacterales or *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*: from early risk identification and diagnostic optimization to appropriate treatment and outcome evaluation.

Geographic Scope

Australia, Chile, India, Italy, Spain, and United Kingdom.

Project Types and Area of Interest

Projects submitted under this RFP should aim to achieve following quality improvement outcomes:

Increase identification of patients at high risk for these infections, improve assessment of patient risk factors, reduce the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics, shorten the time to diagnosis or shorten the time to appropriate therapy, reduce treatment duration where clinically appropriate, enhance data sharing and collaboration among hospital stakeholders.

Please refer to page 2 for a complete description of the area of interest and eligibility requirements for this RFP.

Key Milestones

Extended Submission Deadline	Anticipated Grant Award	Anticipated Project Start Date
1 DEC 2026	MAR 2027	JUN 2027

Funding Range and Project Length

Individual projects requesting up to $43,000 USD will be considered.

Maximum project length is 1 year.

I. Eligibility

Geographic Scope/Location of Project:

Australia, Chile, India, Italy, Spain, and United Kingdom.

Applicant Eligibility Criteria

- The following may apply: medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and/or pharmacy or microbiology 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 or an authorized designee of such individual (e.g., Project Lead/PI's grant/research coordinator).
- The Project 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.
- For grant requests submitted from India, a valid Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) certificate is required for an organization to be eligible to receive funding. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with FCRA requirements, procedures, and associated timelines before submitting a grant application.

II. Requirements

Primary Area of Interest:

Infectious Disease - Bacterial - QI

General Area of Interest for this RFP:

Please ensure your submission is a quality improvement project with clear target metrics. It is not our intent to support medical education or clinical research projects with this RFP. Projects evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents will not be considered.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) invites local quality improvement proposals designed to optimize the care pathway for adult patients with infections caused by MBL-producing Enterobacterales or *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, focusing on critical areas of patient management including:

- Rectal swab surveillance programs to increase the identification of patients at high-risk, decrease the use of broad-spectrum antibiotics with high selective pressure, and shorten time to appropriate empirical therapy
- Integration of rapid microbiology (including rapid genotypic tests and rapid susceptibility testing) into diagnostic algorithms to reduce time to diagnosis and shorten time to appropriate targeted therapy. Integration of advanced microbiology e.g. WGS for early diagnosis and monitoring of high-risk clones in local epidemiology.
- Implementation of predictive or clinical decision support tools, including artificial intelligence–based approaches, to shorten diagnostic timelines, improve patient outcome assessment, reduce treatment duration, and reduce time to diagnosis.
- Data sharing: Optimized data sharing amongst hospital stakeholders to improve time to therapy (e.g. development and dissemination of cumulative antibiograms or local epidemiological surveillance).

Target Audience:

Hospital quality improvement committees, quality officers, infectious disease specialists, clinical microbiologists, antimicrobial stewardship teams, infection prevention specialists, pharmacists, critical care physicians, pulmonologists, internists, laboratory leaders, and other multidisciplinary healthcare professionals involved in the diagnosis, treatment, and care pathway optimization of patients with infections caused by MBL-producing Enterobacterales or *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*. Collaborative, institution-wide quality improvement teams are encouraged to apply.

Disease Burden Overview:

Infections with MBL-producing Enterobacterales or *S. maltophilia* present a severe clinical and economic disease burden driven by antimicrobial resistance, frequent hospital admissions and high mortality rates. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment are the cornerstone of the patient management. The treatment options remain limited.

Recommendations and Target Metrics:

The management of infections caused by Metallo-β-Lactamase (MBL)-producing Enterobacterales or *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia* represents one of the most complex challenges in infectious diseases. Clinical management relies on guidelines from the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ESCMID).

Please ensure your proposal includes the target metrics described in the areas of interest, aligned with the guidelines of best practices. Ensure your aim is specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound.

Gaps Between Actual and Target, Possible Reasons for Gaps:

Ensure your proposal clearly defines a meaningful gap between current and desired performance in a specific healthcare setting, supported by local baseline data and an appropriate standard, benchmark, or evidence-based practice.

Barriers:

Bridging the gap to reach "possible" improvements is not blocked by a lack of raw science, but rather by structural healthcare barriers, that a quality improvement project must be aware of and ready to overcome during project's implementation.

In your proposal, ensure sustainability of the project and forecast barriers to integrate the project's aim into the routine workflows and standard of care. Ensure critical evaluation of operational barriers and plan mitigation strategies

Ensure the data source and systems are fit for the purpose of the QI project; ensure feasibility of the QI intervention such as support from institutional stakeholders accountable for system-level quality metrics and ensure protective time of the QI staff to execute the project.

Current National Efforts to Reduce Gaps:

To bridge the gap between long time to conventional microbiology results and the need for rapid, precise treatment, each of these six nations has targeted specific structural, technical, and systemic weaknesses within their healthcare infrastructure. Their recent efforts address both Enterobacterales (CRE/ESBL) and complex pathogens like *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*.

Ensure that your quality improvement project aligns with national healthcare priorities and addresses a clearly identified local need. Proposed initiatives should demonstrate the potential to improve patient care, enhance healthcare system efficiency, and optimize healthcare professionals' workflows, ultimately leading to meaningful and sustainable impact.

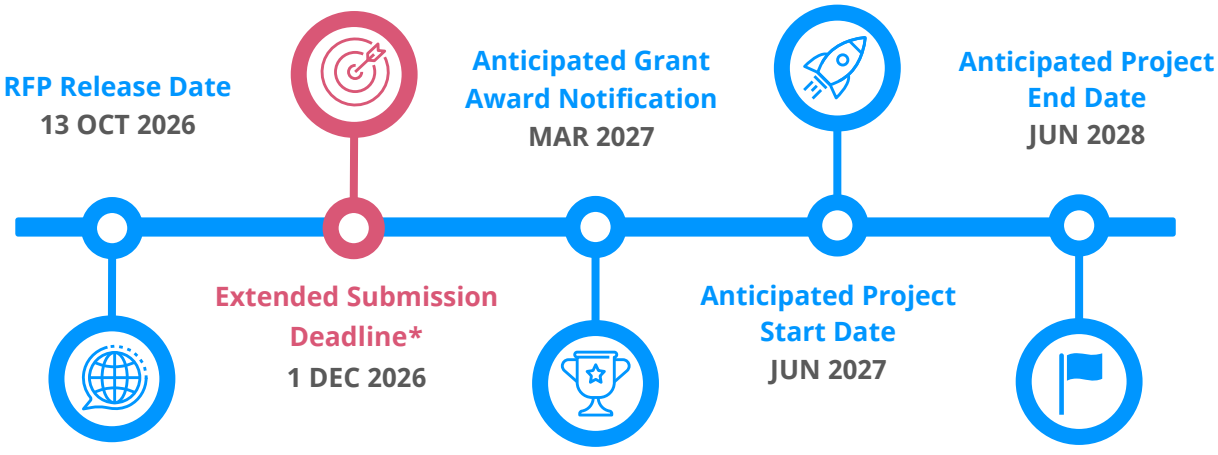
Expected Approximate Monetary Range of Grant Applications:

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 $43,000 will be considered. The estimated total available budget related to this RFP is $260,000.

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 I&I G ATM-AVI 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 Talita Honorato-Rzeszewicz (Talita.honorato-rzeszewicz@pfizer.com), with the subject line "2027 I&I G ATM-AVI QI".

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. 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 a particular setting. 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).

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. 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. The risk of participation in QI is the same as the risk of receiving standard clinical care 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. 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.

References:

1. Columbia University Institutional Review Board. Guidance for the Classification of Quality Improvement Activities Versus Research With Human Subjects. Columbia University; 2023.
2. Newhouse RP, Pettit JC, Poe S, Rocco L. The slippery slope: differentiating between quality improvement and research. J Nurs Adm. 2006;36(4):211-219. doi:10.1097/00005110-200604000-00011.

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, Objectives, and Outcome Metrics

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). Objectives should clearly define the target population and the specific changes or improvements expected as a result of the project. Proposed outcome metrics should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART), enabling an objective assessment of the project's impact and success.

Assessment of Need for the Project

Describe the importance of the quality measure you aim to improve for patients, healthcare professionals, and the health system. Clearly define the gap between current and desired performance, supported by baseline data, quality metrics, gap analyses, or relevant patient-level data. Explain how the data were analyzed to identify the gap. If a full analysis has not yet been completed, describe your plan for collecting and evaluating the necessary data.

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 proposed project and the quality improvement methodology to be used (e.g., Plan-Do-Study-Act cycles), including a practical approach to testing, evaluating, refining, and implementing changes. Clearly define baseline and target outcome metrics, and explain how data will be collected, analyzed, and measured. Data sources and workflow processes should be clearly described.

Feasibility, Sustainability, and Scale

Describe stakeholder engagement in the design and implementation of the project, including support from institutional quality improvement leadership. Explain how protected staff time, data systems, and available resources will support project delivery. Identify key barriers, implementation risks, and mitigation strategies. Describe how successful interventions will be integrated into routine care to ensure sustainability and scalability.

Evaluation and Outcomes

Quantify the expected improvement for the target population by defining measurable changes between baseline and target outcomes. Describe how performance will be monitored over time (e.g., run charts or statistical process control charts). Outline plans to disseminate project results and lessons learned to relevant stakeholders and the broader healthcare community.

Anticipated Project Timeline

Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates. Describe how the timeline is realistic to the proposed setting.

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 GMG 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 required