Pfizer Medical Education Group
Request for Proposals (RFP)
Cardiovascular Risk in Rheumatoid Arthritis:
Assessing the Impact of Screening

Common Questions and Answers

Program Scope

- Clinical Research: In reading through the RFP, process of care is emphasized, suggesting that Pfizer is seeking only projects related to quality research. I am wondering whether other types of clinical research studies not involving a process intervention would be considered.
  - The scope of Pfizer Medical Education Group funding does not include research evaluating the efficacy of any therapeutic interventions. Researchers seeking funding for studies of this nature can submit requests to our Investigator Initiated Research (IIR) group. There may be a perceived overlap and we are happy to provide feedback on specific scenarios.

- PI-CME: Regarding the RFP noted above, is a national performance improvement initiative acceptable for this submission?
  - It is possible for a national PI initiative to meet the scope of this RFP.

Although not received for this RFP, common questions submitted in response to past RFPs are included below.

Geographic Distribution

The RFP itself does not limit the size and requests of a broad range will be considered. Questions were modified to be applicable to this RFP.

- Would a state-specific program be acceptable or not? What about a regional program? National program? Local program?
  - The geographic scope of this RFP is only limited to the United States. Programs with national, regional, state, or local focus will all be considered. The impact on patient care will be a deciding factor.

- Is it more desirable to reach a limited number of learners with significant gaps; or, to reach a larger number of learners but have an overall smaller impact?
  - An interesting question, this is something that should be evaluated based on the needs of the specific population as well as the resources of the applicant. It is our hope that applicants will approach this in the way that best utilizes their resources to make the greatest impact on improving patient care.
Educational Partners

We received one question, in multiple formats, related to educational partners.

- In reference to the Applicant Eligibility Criteria, can you clarify if it is acceptable for corporations (for-profit organizations) to be involved as partners as long as a not-for-profit organization directly submits the grant?
  - Pfizer's policy regarding the elimination of all direct funding for CME/CE programs by commercial providers remains in effect. MECCs are not eligible to register and should continue to partner with other organizations on collaborative projects.

Budget

- What will the grant cover? Will it cover the salary, computer expenses, or travel?
  - Institutional overhead and indirect costs can be included within the grant request. Examples include human resources department costs, payroll processing and accounting costs, janitorial services, utilities, property taxes, property and liability insurance, and building maintenance as well as additional initiative expenses such as costs for publication, IRB / IEC review fees, software license fees, and travel. Please note: Pfizer does not provide funding for capital equipment.

Ongoing Programs

- Could we include ongoing interventions that have been implemented? Or does it have to be a future intervention?
  - Pfizer cannot retroactively fund programs that have already been implemented. Pfizer does encourage the use of pre-existing material in future programming if it appropriately addresses the identified need. Programs that build on previous or ongoing interventions will also be considered.

Timelines

- Is the 7/2015 end date for the funding timeline or educational timeline (e.g., can program evaluation/final reporting extend beyond that date)?
  - The final reporting can extend beyond 7/2015

Format and Layout

- The instructions state a 3-page limit to the main section of the LOI. Does this include references?
  - If extensive, references can be included on a separate page.
- Can an appendix be included within the LOI?
  - No. Aside from references the main section of the LOI should not exceed 3 pages and the organizational detail should not exceed 1 page. A submission exceeding this limit WILL BE REJECTED and RETURNED UNREVIEWED.