

## Medication Optimization in Primary Care Application Language

### **Background:**

The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) ([www.IHI.org](http://www.IHI.org)) is a leading innovator in health and health care improvement worldwide. An independent not-for-profit organization, IHI partners with visionaries, leaders, and front-line practitioners around the globe to spark bold, inventive ways to improve the health of individuals and populations. Recognized as an innovator, convener, trustworthy partner, and driver of results, IHI is the first place to turn for expertise, help, and encouragement for anyone, anywhere who wants to change health and health care profoundly for the better. Based in Boston, Massachusetts with a staff of more than 140 people around the world, IHI mobilizes teams, organizations, and nations to envision and achieve a better health and health care future.

The mission of Pfizer Global Medical Grants is to partner with the global healthcare community to improve patient outcomes in areas of mutual interest through support of measurable learning and change strategies. “Independent” means that the projects funded by Pfizer are the full responsibility of the recipient organization. Pfizer has no influence over any aspect of the projects and only asks for reports about the results and the impact of the projects in order to share them publicly.

When this request for applications (RFA) is issued, it is posted on the IHI website and linked to on the Pfizer website ([www.pfizer.com/independentgrants](http://www.pfizer.com/independentgrants)) in the Request for Proposals (RFPs) section. The application is sent via email to a subset of registered users of [www.IHI.org](http://www.IHI.org), based on user preference, and all registered users in the Pfizer grants system. Some RFPs may also be posted on the websites of other relevant organizations, as deemed appropriate.

**Date Issued:** May 2, 2018

### **Shared Learning and Action Network Aim:**

Beginning in October 2018, a select group of organizations from around the country will work on medication optimization in a shared learning and action network. This is an action oriented, fast-paced effort that will require rapid, iterative testing of changes to achieve the desired outcomes. Over the 12 months, teams will work with each other and expert faculty to test diverse innovative change ideas for medication optimization: implementing patient-centered approaches to address medication safety and appropriateness, adherence, access, and communication of benefit risk. The shared learning and action network will include monthly coaching calls and in-person Learning Sessions where teams can collaborate, as well as receive guidance from IHI on measurement and reporting. This shared learning and action network will help participating organizations potentially improve their current medication prescribing, adherence, access, and communication processes, as well as advise the field on best practices.

### **Areas of Focus:**

The improvement work will center around *medication optimization*, which can be defined as an approach to medication management that focuses on all aspects of the patient’s journey from initiation of treatment (or decisions to forego treatment), to follow-up, to ongoing review and support of their medication treatment plan, and coordination of care.

The principles include:

- Understanding what matters most to the patient
- Partnering with patients and caregivers to co-develop, in a shared decision-making approach, a personalized medication treatment plan, accounting for health literacy, and including options for non-medication-related treatments or decision to forego treatment
- Developing a personalized communication plan for patients so that they fully understand the benefit risk profile of their treatment choices
- Supporting adherence, self-care, and appropriate use of medicines by the patient
- Applying healthcare expertise (clinical and therapeutic) to the plan
- Striving to ensure that the patient is on the fewest amount of appropriate medications to achieve the desired outcome
- Endeavoring to increase safety, quality, and better outcomes; incorporating health literacy tools in this process
- Improving access to medications; focusing on cost and availability
- Communicating with other health care professionals
- Providing appropriate monitoring and review of a medication treatment plan
- Care coordination for patients transitioning out of acute care

**Who's eligible?** Any U.S.-based primary care organization is eligible, other than individual physicians or physician-owned practices. More information on organizations eligible to apply directly for a grant can be found at [http://www.pfizer.com/files/IGLC\\_OrganizationEligibility\\_effJuly2015.pdf](http://www.pfizer.com/files/IGLC_OrganizationEligibility_effJuly2015.pdf).

**Participation Includes:**

- Required full participation of a three-person team for approximately 12 months, including three Learning Sessions and Action Period calls or webinars.
- Coaching and guidance from expert faculty and an improvement advisor.
- Funding to support team participation, including travel for three individuals to attend the Learning Sessions, and one individual to attend the Improvement Coach program.
- Enrollment for one team member to complete IHI's [Improvement Coach](#) program.
- A two-year subscription to IHI's [Open School](#), including completion of specified courses.

**Expectations for Grant Recipients:**

- Ensure organizational leadership support for team participation in this work.
- Team attendance at three Learning Sessions (two in-person, location TBD, and one virtual).
- Team members join Action Period calls or webinars at least monthly.
- One team member to complete the Improvement Coach program, kicking off in September 2018 at IHI offices in Boston, MA.
- Adopt a shared measurement strategy to track progress in the learning and action network.
- Share learning with faculty and other participating teams in monthly reports.
- Develop and test changes that are replicable in other primary care settings.
- Contribute to a report documenting the final results of the project.

**Key Dates:**

- Release Date: May 2, 2018
- Application Due Date: June 19, 2018
- Review of Applications by External Review Panel: July 1 – August 14, 2018
- Anticipated Notification Date: August 15, 2018

- Improvement Coach Workshop 1: September 17-19, 2018, Boston, MA
- Improvement Coach Workshop 2: November 12-14, 2018, Boston, MA
- Learning Session 1: TBD
- Learning Session 2: TBD
- Learning Session 3: TBD

Grants will be distributed following execution of fully signed Letter of Agreement.

**Period of Performance:** September 2018 to September 2019.

**How to Submit:**

Please go to [www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/loi](http://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/loi) and sign in. First-time users should click “REGISTER NOW”.

Select the following Area of Interest: Medication Optimization in Primary Care

Be advised the system is designed for a two-stage submission process: 1) Letter of Intent and 2) Full Proposal. However, for this RFA, we are not using a Letter of Intent. Instead, the only stage will be submission of the Full Proposal.

In the “Required Uploads” section, please follow the table below:

For Field Name:	Please upload:
Letter of Intent	Full Proposal (see Appendix)
LOI Additional Required Uploads	Completed budget template which is available at the following link: <a href="https://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/docs/BudgetTemplate2017.xls">https://www.cybergrants.com/pfizer/docs/BudgetTemplate2017.xls</a>

If you encounter any technical difficulties with the website, please click the “Need Support?” link at the bottom of the page.

**IMPORTANT:** Be advised applications submitted through the wrong application type and/or submitted after the due date will not be reviewed by the committee.

**Questions:**

If you have questions regarding this application, please direct them in writing to the Pfizer Grant Officer, Derek Warnick ([iglc@pfizer.com](mailto:iglc@pfizer.com)) and Rebecca Goldberg ([rgoldberg@ihi.org](mailto:rgoldberg@ihi.org)), with the subject line “Medication Optimization in Primary Care Learning and Action Network.”

**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 or to make a summary presentation during the review period.

Applicants that do not receive a grant may request written feedback on their application within 45 days of notification. Requests for feedback should be sent to [Rebecca Goldberg \(rgoldberg@ihi.org\)](mailto:Rebecca.Goldberg@ihi.org).

**Terms and Conditions:**

Please take note every RFA or application released by Pfizer Global Medical Grants (GMG), as well as a RFA and applications released jointly with a Partner(s), is governed by specific terms and conditions. Click [here](#) to review these terms and conditions.

**Application Submission Guidance:**

Applications should be single-spaced using Calibri 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Note there is a 15-page limit.. ***Applications not meeting these standards will not be reviewed.*** *It is helpful to include a header on each page listing the requesting organization.*

- Describe your organization, including:
  - Organization type, size, and structure
  - Population served
  - Rural or urban
- What does your organization hope to accomplish as a participant in this learning and action network?
- Does your organization plan to focus on a sub-population, such as patients with complex needs, co-morbidities, or multiple medications? (Note that we are particularly interested in applications that focus on these populations.)
- The name of the medical or administrative leader who this team will be able to rely on to remove whatever obstacles may arise or to obtain necessary resources during the learning and action network?
- Please list the names and titles of the three people most likely to participate in the learning and action network.
- Describe the QI experience of the team members. In a brief paragraph, describe a recent improvement project undertaken by the team member(s), including the project design, measurement strategy, and any results.
- Submit a high-level budget proposal indicating anticipated use of funds to include expenses associated with three team members' travel to Learning Sessions and one team member's travel to the Improvement Coach program. NB: A maximum of \$750,000 will be distributed to an anticipated cohort of 10-20 teams. Locations of learning events will be announced closer to the start of the initiative but it is expected at least one Learning Session and the Improvement Coach Program will be held in Boston, MA.