



CHIESI USA, Inc.
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT IN NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE

[RFP Code: **NEO.RFP.001**]

INTRODUCTION

Chiesi USA is committed to neonatology, working alongside the medical community to improve the level of care for preterm babies and with a strong track record of support in neonatology care. Thanks to this important relationship, Chiesi USA has become a global partner for neonatologists, bringing life-saving drugs to more than 80 countries worldwide, and working towards the sharing of best clinical practices.

The mission of the Chiesi USA grants program is to improve patient care in areas of mutual interest through support of independent medical education, scientific research, quality improvement projects, and medical fellowships.

During the past decade, the emergence of outcome measurement and quality improvement in the NICU, far more than the introduction of new research approaches or novel therapies, has had a profound effect on improving outcomes for premature neonates.¹

The intent of this Request for Proposal (RFP) is to encourage organizations, within the US, with a focus in healthcare professional education and quality improvement (QI) in the neonatal intensive care space to submit a project proposal related to education, standardization or change in practice for a specific disease state, therapeutic area, and area of need.

FOCUS AND SCOPE

We look forward to hearing from neonatal fellows and/or early career neonatologists (within their first 7 years out of fellowship) who are members of a multidisciplinary collaborative QI team or interested in developing and leading quality improvement initiatives targeting preterm infants with or at risk of developing respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) in the delivery room and neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

The aim of this QI RFP is to support the progress toward evidence based standardized practices, through quality improvement initiatives aimed at care delivered to neonates with suspected or diagnosed RDS. Up to five (5) applicants will be awarded a grant of up to \$10,000* (inclusive of indirect costs). The estimated

¹ Spitzer A. Has Quality Improvement Really Improved Outcomes for Babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit? Clinics in Perinatology, 2017-09-01, Volume 44, Issue 3, Pages 469-483



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time for completion of projects should be a maximum of twelve (12) months from the date of execution of the award agreement.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR

We are seeking quality improvement projects within the specified Therapeutic Area of Interest with the following attributes:

- Use of evidence-based medicine (EBM) to identify target of QI project
- Ability to identify benchmarks of QI project
- Capable of measuring baseline and outcome data
- Initial Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle identified with drivers included
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Identifiable, predicted potential for impact
- Plan for incremental and stepwise approach to QI including educational and resource requirements
- Goal to submit as an abstract, poster, publication, or final report to serve as an indication of completion

THERAPEUTIC AREA OF INTEREST

Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome: The treatment and management of Neonatal RDS varies widely in the United States. Management of Neonatal RDS varies site to site and provider to provider within the same site. Chiesi USA is seeking proposals focused on quality improvement measures targeting the management of Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome in the delivery room and neonatal intensive care unit. The scope includes patients at risk of developing RDS and patients with clinically defined RDS, within the first 72 hours of life.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Key Dates

- Chiesi USA RFP open for submission: November 1st, 2023
- Proposal submission deadline: January 5th, 2024
- Decisions will be communicated by: February 9th, 2024

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, the applicant must be employed by an accredited healthcare system or hospital, accredited university, academic medical center, or research institution, located in the United States.

Primary applicants must be either neonatology fellows or early career neonatologists within their first 7 years of graduating fellowship.



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Submission Process

Reference RFP Code: **NEO.RFP.001**

Go to <https://chiesi.versaic.com> and submit completed applications by **January 5th, 2024**.

The RFP Code is required to submit an application.

Please follow the submission instructions found in the Application Template at the end of this document.

Selection Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed for qualification by the respective Chiesi USA Grant Committee based on eligibility criteria, including the focus and scope as defined herein. Qualified project proposals will be judged by an expert review panel (comprised of internal and external individuals with scientific and clinical expertise). The projects will be judged on several criteria, including:

- Well defined multi-disciplinary team
- Alignment of project to supporting evidence for practice change
- Well-defined initial and hypothesized QI cycles
- Potential for impact

Additional Information

Institutions selected for funding award will be required to enter into a grant agreement with Chiesi USA to receive indicated funding. An agreement with detailed terms and conditions for funding award will be provided at the time of notification by Chiesi USA.

For questions about this Chiesi USA RFP please contact: us.grants@chiesi.com

FAQS

How much funding is available for an applicant that is awarded funding by Chiesi USA?

- The total funding per project will not exceed \$10,000*
- Up to five (5) total applicants will be awarded a grant for this RFP

If the funding is awarded, will indirect costs (a.k.a. overhead) be added to the funding?

- No, the total funding to be awarded includes all costs such as indirect costs (a.k.a. overhead). All indirect or administrative budget requirements should be addressed in submitted budget. The total funding per project will not exceed \$10,000*

What is an "Independent" Request for Proposal?



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- “Independent” means the projects funded by Chiesi USA are the full responsibility of the recipient organization. Chiesi USA has no influence over any aspect of the projects and only asks for incremental reports on progress and results and the impact of the projects.

How long will the project and funding last?

- The project duration will be a maximum of twelve (12) months. Total funding will not exceed \$10,000*

What should a quality improvement plan entail?

- Applicants should design and plan to implement a quality improvement project that incorporates the following:
 1. Multidisciplinary team identified to perform root cause analysis for problem attempting to be solved
 2. Create knowledge and build capabilities and capacity integrating performance and quality improvement with continuing education
 3. Evidence-based education and/or quality improvement and follow generally accepted scientific principles
 4. Utilization of system-based changes institution of well-defined PDSA cycle with baseline measurements for comparison

What is the proposal application process?

- Please see the Proposal Submission Process in the Guidelines above.

Which therapeutic areas are you considering for this RFP?

- Please see the Therapeutic Areas of Interest above for more details on the respiratory and neonatology therapeutic opportunities we are considering in this RFP.

Is Chiesi USA considering bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) prevention or management quality improvement projects for this RFP?

- No, while BPD is a significant and costly outcome of RDS, it is not the focus of this RFP. Although strategies known or hypothesized to prevent or decrease risk of BPD may be part of the QI process, the proposal will not be considered if focused on BPD management alone.

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APPLICATION TEMPLATE & INSTRUCTIONS

Project Title	<i>This is the name of the event or project seeking grant funding</i>
Project goals and objectives	<i>Briefly state the overall goal of the project. Describe how the goal aligns with the focus of the RFP and the goals of the applicant organization(s). List overall objectives you plan to meet with your project, including goals for learning and expected outcomes. Objectives should describe the target population and outcomes you expect to achieve as a result of conducting the project.</i>
Assessment of Need	<i>Please include a quantitative baseline data summary, initial metrics (e.g., quality measures), or 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.</i>
Target Audience	<i>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.</i>
Project Design and Method	<i>Describe the planned project and the way it addresses the established need. If your methods include educational activities, please briefly describe the topic(s) and format of those activities. Any plans for patient involvement or input should be outlined here.</i>
Innovation	<i>Explain what measures you have taken to ensure 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.</i>
Evaluation and Outcomes	<i>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. Please outline how the outcomes of the project will be translated into delivery, addressing how they could be implemented to provide the maximum</i>



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	<i>benefit to patients. Outline an abstract submission or publication plan.</i>
Anticipated Project Timeline	<i>Provide an anticipated timeline for your project including project start/end dates</i>
Organization detail	<i>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.</i>
Department endorsement	<i>Please include a letter of endorsement from the relevant department head or advisor</i>

*Chiesi USA maintains a company-wide maximum allowed overhead rate of 30% for independent studies or projects.