



**PhRMA Foundation Adherence Intervention Evaluation Award
Center for Adherence Improvement**

Key Dates

Opening Date: October 2013

Closing Date: February 1, 2014 (after February 1 grants may be awarded on a rolling basis)

Program

Medication adherence is defined as the extent to which a patient acts in accordance with the prescribed interval and dose of a treatment regimen. Extensive evidence demonstrates that medication adherence can yield better clinical and economic outcomes. However, many individuals do not take their medications as recommended. Closing the adherence gap is important to improving the quality of health care, encouraging better chronic care management, and promoting better outcomes. The purpose of this initiative is to fund research that will advance knowledge of innovative and effective approaches to improve medication adherence in community and clinical settings.

This initiative will fund experimental studies that are designed to evaluate interventions or efforts to improve adherence. The evaluation should take place in a setting that facilitates direct interaction with patients to affect medication taking behavior. To do so, the principal investigator is required to work with a health plan, healthcare provider group, or similar clinical environment such as a hospital, outpatient care, urgent care, or pharmacy to collect relevant data for the study. Research should focus on the outcomes of the intervention, not the process of the intervention itself. The primary endpoint of the study should be related to medication adherence (e.g. percentage of days covered).

The intervention may be behavioral (counseling, monitoring, incentive-based), structural (use of health information technology, continuity of care), or use a combination of approaches. The study should consider the real-world applicability of the intervention and the generalizability of the findings to broader patient populations and settings.

Eligibility

Applicants should have the skills, experience, and relationship with a health plan or provider organization necessary to carry out the proposed work. Applicants with a medical degree or a doctoral degree in health services research, economics, epidemiology, behavioral, or related field are encouraged to apply. Applicants must reside in the U.S. and have a contractual commitment with a healthcare or research institution. Applications are to be submitted to foundation@phrma.org and received by February 1, 2014.

Award

The scope and duration of the proposed research is expected to vary depending on the study design, intervention to be evaluated, and healthcare system involved. The size of the awards will vary, but are expected to approximate \$100,000 to \$150,000. Requested funds should be adequately justified in the proposal. The duration of the award is 18 months; extensions will be considered on a case by case basis.

The recipient may receive additional financial support for salary or research purposes from the sponsoring institution or other sources. It is expected that the award will be administered in accordance with the prevailing policies and procedures of the institution.



A progress report (2-page limit) will be required at midterm and a final report (10-page limit) will be required upon completion of the study. The PhRMA Foundation project officer should be made aware of manuscripts to be published as a result of the proposed research. The funds are not transferable.

Additional investigators are welcome as collaborators in a multidisciplinary research team. The amount of time to be devoted to the project by the applicant and other investigators should be identified in the research proposal.

Recommended guidelines for using the grant funds are listed below. The submitted line item budget must reflect how the funds will be used based on the guidelines.

Recommended Budget Guidelines

1. To collect or purchase data or equipment that will support proposed research efforts.
2. To support technical assistance (e.g. wages of a co-investigator or research assistant).
3. To support the resources, materials, or staff used to implement the intervention (if applicable).
4. No more than \$2,500 a year may be used for travel to professional meetings.
5. A percentage of the funds may be used for salary if the review panel determines this level of support is justified given the applicant's current position, current funding level, and the proposed research plan.
6. The program does not provide payment for tuition. Up to 8% of the grant funds may be used to cover indirect costs, additional funds may be applied if adequately justified and on a case by case basis.

Application

The application package should be submitted as a single PDF. The applicant's name and institution should be provided as a header on the top right corner of each page. Any questions about the application, eligibility criteria, intervention to be studied, or collaborating healthcare organization should be directed to Samantha Dougherty at sdougherty@phrma.org.

List of Application Components – in order as follows

1. Introduction page
2. Applicant CV or biosketch
3. Contact information and CV or biosketch of co-investigators (if applicable)
4. Applicant cover letter (limited to two pages)
5. Certification Letter from the Health Plan or Healthcare Organization
6. Letter(s) of support from the applicant's department chair or mentor demonstrating the applicant's research capability, work ethic, character, and resourcefulness.
7. Research plan (limited to eight pages)
8. Budget – describe how the funds will be used and include other funding the project (will receive(s))
9. Reprints of relevant articles published by the applicant

Introduction Page



The first page of the application package should contain the following information: applicant name, application institution, collaborating health plan or system, proposed intervention, project title, and abstract (300 word limit). A template can be found at the end of this document.

Research Proposal Format

The applicant must prepare a comprehensive description of the research plan not to exceed eight single-spaced pages of size 12 Arial font. Applicants are requested to include a description of the study objective(s), conceptual framework, rationale, key measures, methodology, known limitations, expected findings, and significance/potential impact of the findings. A detailed description of the intervention to be evaluated is required. A bibliography of references cited is excluded from the page length restriction. Preliminary results, if any, should also be included. The proposal should state the plans for dissemination of research findings (i.e. expected peer-reviewed publications, poster or paper presentation at research meetings).

Cover Letter

The applicant must provide a short description of the intervention to be studied in the cover letter. The letter should also describe why the applicant is qualified to conduct the proposed research. The letter should also state whether the applicant and co-investigators (if applicable) have any conflicts of interest related to the proposed research.

Certification Letter from the Health Plan or Healthcare Organization

The health plan or clinical environment in which the applicant will collect and evaluate data should provide a letter certifying their agreement to participate in the research project. The letter should include a description of the intervention and mechanism through which the investigator will collect or receive patient and/or provider data.

Review

Applications will be judged on the scientific worthiness of the proposed research and will be evaluated by a panel of qualified reviewers. The review criteria will include the following:

- **Impact of research findings:** Will the study advance knowledge regarding effective and innovative approaches to improve medication adherence? Will the findings will be useful in improving healthcare for patients, providers, or insurers? Does the applicant plan to effectively communicate the study findings (e.g. submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal, present at a scientific meeting)?
- **Study approach and methodology:** Are the methods, conceptual framework, study design, and measures sound and appropriate? Are the study limitations acknowledged and reasonable? Are the budget considerations reasonable?
- **Intervention:** Is the intervention expected to successfully improve adherence? Is the intervention feasible and not cost effective for implementation on a large scale? Does the study demonstrate that the intervention can be feasibly and effectively applied in a real world setting?
- **Environment:** Is the applicant prepared to work with a health plan or provider organization to evaluate the impact of a potentially successful intervention to improve adherence? Does the applicant's experience and research environment prepare him/her for successful completion of the project?
- **Generalizability:** Are the research findings generalizable and applicable to broader populations and settings representative of the real world?

PhRMA Foundation Adherence Intervention Evaluation Award

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Foundation



Center for Adherence Improvement

Applicant name:

Mentor Name:

Institution:

Collaborating health plan or system:

Proposed intervention for evaluation:

Project title:

Abstract (300 word limit):