



BLA 125514/S-9

ACCELERATED APPROVAL

Merck Sharp and Dohme Corp.
Attention: Margaret McCann, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director, Worldwide Regulatory Affairs
126 East Lincoln Ave.
P.O. Box 2000
RY34-B293
Rahway, NJ 07065

Dear Dr. McCann:

Please refer to your Supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA), dated February 9, 2016, received February 9, 2016, and your amendments, submitted under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act for Keytruda (pembrolizumab).

This Prior Approval supplemental biologics application adds a new indication for the treatment of patients with recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck with disease progression on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy.

APPROVAL & LABELING

We have completed our review of this supplemental application, as amended. It is approved, effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed, agreed-upon labeling text.

WAIVER OF HIGHLIGHTS SECTION

Please note that we have previously granted a waiver of the requirements of 21 CFR 201.57(d)(8) regarding the length of Highlights of prescribing information.

CONTENT OF LABELING

As soon as possible, but no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, submit, via the FDA automated drug registration and listing system (eLIST), the content of labeling [21 CFR 601.14(b)] in structured product labeling (SPL) format, as described at <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm>, that is identical to the enclosed labeling text for the package insert and Medication Guide and include the labeling changes proposed in any pending "Changes Being Effected" (CBE) supplements. Information on submitting SPL files using eLIST may be found in the guidance for industry

titled “SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As” at <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM072392.pdf>.

The SPL will be accessible via publicly available labeling repositories.

Also within 14 days, amend all pending supplemental applications that include labeling changes for this BLA, including pending “Changes Being Effected” (CBE) supplements, for which FDA has not yet issued an action letter, with the content of labeling [21 CFR 601.12(f)] in MS Word format that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application.

ACCELERATED APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Products approved under the accelerated approval regulations, 21 CFR 601.41, require further adequate and well-controlled studies/clinical trials to verify and describe clinical benefit. You are required to conduct such studies/clinical trials with due diligence. If postmarketing studies/clinical trials fail to verify clinical benefit or are not conducted with due diligence, we may, following a hearing in accordance with 21 CFR 601.43(b), withdraw this approval. We remind you of your postmarketing requirement specified in your submission dated June 24, 2016. This requirement, along with required completion dates, is listed below.

This postmarketing clinical trial is subject to the reporting requirements of 21 CFR 601.70:

3100-1 Conduct and submit the results of at least one multicenter, randomized clinical trial establishing the superiority of pembrolizumab over available therapy as determined by an improvement in overall survival in patients with metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck.

Final Protocol Submission:	March 2016 (completed)
Trial Completion:	October 2017
Final Report Submission:	April 2018

Submit clinical protocols to your IND 122325 for this product. In addition, under 21 CFR 314.81(b)(2)(vii) and 314.81(b)(2)(viii) you should include a status summary of each requirement in your annual report to this BLA. The status summary should include expected summary completion and final report submission dates, any changes in plans since the last annual report, and, for clinical studies/trials, number of patients entered into each study/trial.

Submit final reports to this BLA as a supplemental application. For administrative purposes, all submissions relating to this postmarketing requirement must be clearly designated “**Subpart E Postmarketing Requirement(s)**.”

REQUIRED PEDIATRIC ASSESSMENTS

Under the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA) (21 U.S.C. 355c), all applications for new active ingredients, new indications, new dosage forms, new dosing regimens, or new routes of

administration are required to contain an assessment of the safety and effectiveness of the product for the claimed indication(s) in pediatric patients unless this requirement is waived, deferred, or inapplicable.

We are waiving the pediatric study requirement for this application because the necessary studies are impossible or highly impracticable because squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck does not occur in children.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Under 21 CFR 601.45, you are required to submit, during the application pre-approval review period, all promotional materials, including promotional labeling and advertisements, that you intend to use in the first 120 days following marketing approval (i.e., your launch campaign). If you have not already met this requirement, you must immediately contact the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP) at (301) 796-1200. Please ask to speak to a regulatory project manager or the appropriate reviewer to discuss this issue.

As further required by 21 CFR 601.45, submit all promotional materials that you intend to use after the 120 days following marketing approval (i.e., your post-launch materials) at least 30 days before the intended time of initial dissemination of labeling or initial publication of the advertisement. We ask that each submission include a detailed cover letter together with three copies each of the promotional materials, annotated references, and approved package insert (PI)/Medication Guide/patient PI (as applicable).

Send each submission directly to:

OPDP Regulatory Project Manager
Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Office of Prescription Drug Promotions (OPDP)
5901-B Ammendale Road
Beltsville, MD 20705-1266

Alternatively, you may submit promotional materials for accelerated approval products electronically in eCTD format. For more information about submitting promotional materials in eCTD format, see the draft Guidance for Industry (available at: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Drugs/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/Guidances/UCM443702.pdf>).

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

We remind you that you must comply with reporting requirements for an approved BLA (in 21 CFR 600.80 and in 21 CFR 600.81).

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Sharon Sickafuse, Senior Regulatory Health Project Manager, at (301) 796-2320.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Patricia Keegan, M.D.
Director
Division of Oncology Products 2
Office of Hematology and Oncology Products
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

ENCLOSURE:
Content of Labeling

This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically and this page is the manifestation of the electronic signature.

/s/

PATRICIA KEEGAN
08/05/2016