



BLA 125514/S-031

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp, a subsidiary of Merck & Co, Inc.
Attention: Victoria Demby, PhD
Director, Oncology Regulatory Affairs
UG2CD48
351 North Sumneytown Pike
North wales, PA 19454-2505

Dear Dr. Demby:

Please refer to your Supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA), dated November 3, 2017, received November 3, 2017, and your amendment, submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for Keytruda[®] (pembrolizumab) Injection.

We also refer to our letter dated October 12, 2017, notifying you, under Section 505(o)(4) of the FDCA, of new safety information that we believe should be included in the labeling for Keytruda (pembrolizumab). This information pertains to the risk of increased mortality with the addition of Keytruda, a programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1) blocking monoclonal antibody, to standard treatment with a thalidomide analogue and dexamethasone in patients with multiple myeloma, as described in your clinical trials KEYNOTE-183 and KEYNOTE-185.

This supplemental biologics application provides for revisions to the labeling for Keytruda[®] (pembrolizumab) consistent with our October 12, 2017 Safety Labeling Change Notification letter.

APPROVAL & LABELING

We have completed our review of this supplemental application. 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 prescribing information) 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.

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.

Because none of these criteria apply to your application, you are exempt from this requirement.

All promotional materials for your drug product that include representations about your drug product must be promptly revised to make it consistent with the labeling changes approved in this supplement, including any new safety information [21 CFR 601.12(a)(4)]. The revisions to your promotional materials should include prominent disclosure of the important new safety information that appears in the revised package labeling. Within 7 days of receipt of this letter, submit your statement of intent to comply with 21 CFR 601.12(a)(4) to the address above, by fax to 301-847-8444, or 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, call Ms. Diane Leaman, Safety Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-1424.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Barry W. Miller
Deputy Director for Safety (acting)
Division of Hematology Products
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/

BARRY W MILLER
11/29/2017