



BLA 125514/S-054

SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc.
Attention: Ripal Shah, PharmD
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs
126 E. Lincoln Avenue, P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, NJ 07065-0900

Dear Dr. Shah:

Please refer to your Supplemental Biologics License Application, dated December 20, 2018, received December 20, 2018, submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for KEYTRUDA[®] (pembrolizumab) Powder for Solution for Infusion/Solution for Infusion.

This Prior Approval supplemental biologics application provides for a new indication, in combination with axitinib, for the first-line treatment of patients with advanced renal cell carcinoma.

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.

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 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 Microsoft Word format that includes the changes approved in this supplemental application, as well as annual reportable changes. To facilitate review of your submission(s), provide a highlighted or marked-up copy that shows all changes, as well as a clean Microsoft Word version. The marked-up copy should provide appropriate annotations, including supplement number(s) and annual report date(s).

REQUIRED PEDIATRIC ASSESSMENTS

Under the Pediatric Research Equity Act (PREA) (21 U.S.C. 355c), all applications for new active ingredients (which includes new salts and new fixed combinations), 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 studies requirement for this application because necessary studies are impossible or highly impracticable in children since the incidence of renal cell carcinoma in the pediatric population is extremely rare.

POSTMARKETING COMMITMENTS SUBJECT TO REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER SECTION 506B

We remind you of your postmarketing commitments:

3589-1 Provide a report, datasets, and labeling for the second interim analysis of overall survival (OS) for the ongoing clinical trial KEYNOTE-426, entitled, “A Phase III Randomized, Open-label Study to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in Combination with Axitinib Versus Sunitinib Monotherapy as a First-line Treatment for Locally Advanced or Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma (mRCC).”

The timetable you submitted on April 4, 2019, states that you will conduct this study according to the following schedule:

Final Report Submission:	08/2020
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3589-2 Provide a report, datasets, and labeling for the final analysis of overall survival (OS) for the ongoing clinical trial KEYNOTE-426, entitled, “A Phase III Randomized, Open-label Study to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) in Combination with Axitinib Versus Sunitinib Monotherapy as a First-line Treatment for Locally Advanced or Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma (mRCC).”

The timetable you submitted on April 12, 2019, states that you will conduct this study according to the following schedule:

Final Protocol Submission:	06/2016
Trial Completion:	03/2021
Final Report Submission:	09/2021

Submit clinical protocols to your IND 122753 for this product. Submit nonclinical and chemistry, manufacturing, and controls protocols and all postmarketing final reports to this BLA. In addition, under 21 CFR 601.70 you should include a status summary of each commitment in your annual progress report of postmarketing studies 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. All submissions, including supplements, relating to these postmarketing commitments should be prominently labeled “**Postmarketing Commitment Protocol,**” “**Postmarketing Commitment Final Report,**” or “**Postmarketing Commitment Correspondence.**”

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

You may request advisory comments on proposed introductory advertising and promotional labeling. To do so, submit, in triplicate, a cover letter requesting advisory comments, the proposed materials in draft or mock-up form with annotated references, and the Prescribing Information to:

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

Alternatively, you may submit a request for advisory comments 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>).

As required under 21 CFR 601.12(f)(4), you must submit final promotional materials, and the Prescribing Information, at the time of initial dissemination or publication, accompanied by a Form FDA 2253. Form FDA 2253 is available at

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AboutFDA/ReportsManualsForms/Forms/UCM083570.pdf>.

Information and Instructions for completing the form can be found at

<http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AboutFDA/ReportsManualsForms/Forms/UCM375154.pdf>. For

more information about submission of promotional materials to the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP), see <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/CentersOffices/CDER/ucm090142.htm>.

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, contact Rajesh Venugopal, Senior Regulatory Project Manager, at (301) 796-4730.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Amna Ibrahim, MD
Deputy Director
Division of Oncology Products 1
Office of Hematology and Oncology Products
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

ENCLOSURES:

Content of Labeling
Prescribing Information
Medication Guide

This is a representation of an electronic record that was signed electronically. Following this are manifestations of any and all electronic signatures for this electronic record.

/s/

AMNA IBRAHIM
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