



BLA 125514/S-67

## SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.  
Attention: Siyoung Ahn  
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs  
126 E. Lincoln Ave., P.O. Box 2000  
RY34-B293  
Rahway, NJ 07065

Dear Ms. Ahn:

Please refer to your supplemental biologics license application (sBLA), dated July 10, 2019, received July 10, 2019, and your amendments, submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) for injection, for intravenous use and for KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) injection, for intravenous use.

This labeling Prior Approval supplemental biologics application revises the DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS and HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING sections of the prescribing information to remove the 50mg lyophilized formulation. This supplement also revises the DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Preparation for Administration (2.18) subsection.

### **APPROVAL & LABELING**

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

### **WAIVER OF HIGHLIGHTS ½ PAGE LENGTH REQUIREMENT FOR HIGHLIGHTS**

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 FDA.gov,<sup>1</sup> that is identical to the enclosed labeling text for the Prescribing Information

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/ForIndustry/DataStandards/StructuredProductLabeling/default.htm>

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 *SPL Standard for Content of Labeling Technical Qs and As*.<sup>2</sup>

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.

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

### **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

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<sup>2</sup> We update guidances periodically. For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA Guidance Documents Database <https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>.

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 *Providing Regulatory Submissions in Electronic and Non-Electronic Format—Promotional Labeling and Advertising Materials for Human Prescription Drugs*.<sup>3</sup>

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 FDA.gov.<sup>4</sup> Information and Instructions for completing the form can be found at FDA.gov.<sup>5</sup> For more information about submission of promotional materials to the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP), see FDA.gov.<sup>6</sup>

## **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 Sharon Sickafuse, Senior Regulatory Health Project Manager, at 301-796-2320 or email [sharon.sickafuse@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:sharon.sickafuse@fda.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

*{See appended electronic signature page}*

Shaily Arora, Pharm D  
Acting Associate Director for Safety  
Office of Oncologic Diseases  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

## ENCLOSURES:

- Content of Labeling
  - Prescribing Information
  - Medication Guide

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<sup>3</sup> When final, this guidance will represent the FDA's current thinking on this topic. For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA guidance web page at <https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AboutFDA/ReportsManualsForms/Forms/UCM083570.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/AboutFDA/ReportsManualsForms/Forms/UCM375154.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/center-drug-evaluation-and-research-cder/office-prescription-drug-promotion-opdp>

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**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.**  
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/s/  
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