



BLA 125514/S-108

**ACKNOWLEDGE PRIOR APPROVAL SUPPLEMENT  
- SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL**

Merck Sharp and Dohme Corporation, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc.  
Attention: Geet Mankad  
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs  
126 East Lincoln Avenue  
Rahway, NJ 07065

Dear Mr. Mankad:

Please refer to your April 5, 2021, supplemental biologics license application (sBLA) submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for the following:

**BLA NUMBER:** 125514  
**SUPPLEMENT NUMBER:** 108  
**PRODUCT NAME:** Keytruda (pembrolizumab) injection, for intravenous use  
**DATE OF SUBMISSION:** April 5, 2021  
**DATE OF RECEIPT:** April 5, 2021

We have reviewed your submission of this Prior Approval Supplemental biologics application to clarify the Indications and Usage, Microsatellite Instability-High or Mismatch Repair Deficient Cancer (1.8) and Microsatellite Instability-High or Mismatch Repair Deficient Colorectal Cancer (1.9) sections of the Keytruda package insert (PI) and the Medication Guide.

This update to the PI does not impact any milestones associated with PMR 3213-1; therefore, PMR 3213-1 remains unchanged.

**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, 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.

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

<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>.

## **PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS**

You may request advisory comments on proposed introductory advertising and promotional labeling. For information about submitting promotional materials, see the final 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>

## **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 Gina Davis, Senior Regulatory Health Project Manager, at (301) 796-0704.

Sincerely,

*{See appended electronic signature page}*

Steven Lemery, MD, MHS  
Director (Acting), Division of Oncology 3  
Office of Oncologic Diseases  
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

### ENCLOSURE:

- Content of Labeling

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<sup>3</sup> For the most recent version of a guidance, check the FDA guidance web page at <https://www.fda.gov/media/128163/download>.

<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>

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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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STEVEN J LEMERY  
06/28/2021 11:43:32 AM