



BLA 125514/S-124

**SUPPLEMENT APPROVAL/
FULFILLMENT OF POSTMARKETING REQUIREMENT**

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc.
Attention: Julie M. Angelot
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs
351 Sumneytown Pike, P.O. Box 1000, UG2D-68
North Wales, PA 19454-2505

Dear Julie M. Angelot:

Please refer to your December 13, 2021, supplemental biologics license application (sBLA), and your amendments, submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for Keytruda (pembrolizumab).

We also refer to our October 10, 2022, general advice letter wherein we deferred action on your application until Bioresearch Monitoring (BIMO) inspections could be completed.

This Prior Approval supplemental biologics license application provides for updates to Sections 1, 2, 6 and 14, of the Keytruda (pembrolizumab) Prescribing Information (PI) and the Medication Guide for conversion of the Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC) indication from accelerated approval to regular approval following fulfillment of postmarketing requirement (PMR) 3492-1. This indication has been revised as follows:

- For the treatment of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) secondary to hepatitis B who have received prior systemic therapy other than a PD-1/PD-L1-containing regimen.

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,¹ 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*.²

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).

SUBPART E FULFILLED

We approved this BLA under the regulations at 21 CFR 601 Subpart E for Accelerated Approval of Biological Products for Serious or Life-Threatening Illnesses. Approval of this supplement fulfills your commitments made under 21 CFR 601.41.

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 this drug product for this indication has an orphan drug designation, you are exempt from this requirement.

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

² 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>.

FULFILLMENT OF POSTMARKETING REQUIREMENT

We refer to your supplemental biologics license application (sBLA) under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act for Keytruda (pembrolizumab).

We received your December 13, 2021, submission containing the final report for the following postmarketing requirement listed in the November 9, 2018, approval letter for BLA 125514/S-042.

- 3492-1 Conduct and submit the results of 1 or more randomized trials to verify and describe the clinical benefit of pembrolizumab as compared to available therapy in patients with locally advanced, unresectable, or metastatic HCC as demonstrated by an improvement in OS or a large improvement in PFS that is clinically meaningful.

Trial Completion: 01/2019

Final Report Submission: 10/2019

We have reviewed your submission and conclude that the above requirement was fulfilled.

This completes all of your postmarketing requirements and postmarketing commitments acknowledged in our November 9, 2018, letter. You are not required to report on the status of closed (released or fulfilled) PMRs/PMC in your annual report required under 21 CFR 601.70 of the FD&CA.

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*.³

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.⁴ Information and Instructions for completing the form can be found at FDA.gov.⁵

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

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

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

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-related information [21 CFR 601.12(a)(4)]. The revisions to your promotional materials should include prominent disclosure of the important new safety-related information that appears in the revised labeling. Within 7 days of receipt of this letter, submit your statement of intent to comply with 21 CFR 601.12(a)(4).

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, M.D., M.H.S.
Director
Division of Oncology 3
Office of Oncologic Diseases
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/

STEVEN J LEMERY
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