U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

BLA 125514/S-71 & S-90

ACCELERATED APPROVAL

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp.
Attention: Lisa Chao, Ph.D.
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs
126 E. Lincoln Ave., RY34-B2126
P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, NJ 07065

Dear Dr. Chao:

Please refer to your Prior Approval supplemental biologics license applications (sBLAs) dated December 16, 2019, received December 16, 2019, (S-71) and dated June 2, 2020, received June 2, 2020, (S-90) submitted under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for KEYTRUDA (pembrolizumab) injection, for intravenous use.

S-71 provides for a new indication for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients with unresectable or metastatic tumor mutational burden-high (TMB-H) [≥10 mutations/megabase (mut/Mb)] solid tumors, as determined by an FDA-approved test, that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options. This approval includes the following Limitations of Use: the safety and effectiveness of KEYTRUDA in pediatric patients with TMB-H central nervous system cancers have not been established.

S-90 provides for an alternate dose/schedule of 400 mg every 6 weeks for adult patients with unresectable or metastatic TMB-H [≥10 mutations/megabase (mut/Mb)] solid tumors, as determined by an FDA-approved test, that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options.

APPROVAL & LABELING

We have completed our review of these applications, as amended. They are approved under the provisions of accelerated approval regulations (21 CFR 601.41), effective on the date of this letter, for use as recommended in the enclosed agreed-upon labeling. Marketing of this drug product and related activities must adhere to the substance and procedures of the referenced accelerated approval regulations.

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).

ACCELERATED APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS

Products approved under the accelerated approval regulations, 21 CFR 601.41, require further adequate and well-controlled clinical trials to verify and describe clinical benefit. You are required to conduct such clinical trials with due diligence. If postmarketing clinical trials fail to verify clinical benefit or are not conducted with due diligence, we may, following a hearing in accordance with 21 CFR 601.43(b), withdraw this approval. We remind you of your postmarketing requirements specified in your submissions dated June 9 (S-71 and S-90) and June 15, 2020 (S-71). These requirements, along with required completion dates, are listed below.

S-71

3871-1 Submit the final report and datasets from clinical trials evaluating overall response rate and duration of response, to verify and describe the clinical benefit of pembrolizumab in adult and pediatric patients with unresectable or metastatic tumor mutational burden-high (TMB-H) [≥10 mutations/megabase (mut/Mb)] solid tumors (as determined by an FDA-approved test) that have progressed following prior treatment and who

[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 at https://www.fda.gov/RegulatoryInformation/Guidances/default.htm.

have no satisfactory alternative treatment options. A sufficient number of patients and representation of tumor types (other than lung cancers, MSI-H or dMMR cancers, or melanoma; and including CNS tumors that were determined to be TMB-H based on testing of tissue obtained prior to initiation of temozolomide chemotherapy), and with cancers having a TMB of 10 to <13 mut/Mb, will be evaluated to characterize response and duration of response. A minimum of 20 pediatric patients will be studied. Overall response rate and duration of response will be assessed by independent central review for patients with cancers having a TMB of ≥10 mut/Mb, ≥10 mut/Mb to <13 mut/Mb, and ≥13 mut/Mb. All responding patients will be followed for at least 12 months from the onset of response.

Final Protocol Submission:	07/2020
Trial Completion:	06/2025
Final Report Submission:	12/2025

S-90

3850-1 Submit the final analysis of overall response rate, duration of response, and safety from Cohort B of the KEYNOTE-555 trial titled, "*A Phase 1 Randomized Clinical Study of Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) to Evaluate the Relative Bioavailability of Subcutaneous Injection Versus Intravenous Infusion in Participants With Advanced Melanoma*" to verify and describe the anticipated effects of the alternative dosing regimen for pembrolizumab 400 mg every six weeks, that may inform product labeling across indications. All responding patients should be followed for at least 12 months from the onset of response. Provide pharmacokinetic data at first cycle and at steady state from Cohort B and the datasets in the final report.

Final Protocol Submission:	Completed
Trial Completion (Cohort B):	08/2021
Final Report Submission (Cohort B):	02/2022

For PMR #3871-1, submit clinical protocols to your IND 127548 for this product. In addition, under 21 CFR 601.70 you should include a status summary of each requirement in your annual report 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.

Submit final reports to this BLA as supplemental applications. For administrative purposes, all submissions relating to these postmarketing requirement must be clearly designated "**Subpart E Postmarketing Requirement(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 note that you have fulfilled the pediatric study requirement for all relevant pediatric age groups for this application.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Under 21 CFR 601.45, you are required to submit, during the application pre-approval review period, all promotional materials, including promotional labeling and advertisements, that you intend to use in the first 120 days following marketing approval (i.e., your launch campaign). If you have not already met this requirement, you must immediately contact the Office of Prescription Drug Promotion (OPDP) at (301) 796-1200. Please ask to speak to a regulatory project manager or the appropriate reviewer to discuss this issue.

As further required by 21 CFR 601.45, submit all promotional materials that you intend to use after the 120 days following marketing approval (i.e., your post-launch materials) at least 30 days before the intended time of initial dissemination of labeling or initial publication of the advertisement. We ask that each submission include a detailed cover letter together with three copies each of the promotional materials, annotated references, and approved Prescribing Information, Medication Guide, and Patient Package Insert (as applicable).

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]

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).

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

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.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

Steven Lemery, M.D., M.H.S.
Acting 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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