

BLA 761467/Original 1

BLA APPROVAL

Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC
Attention: Janice Kim, PharmD, MS
Director, Global Regulatory Affairs
126 East Lincoln Avenue, P.O. Box 2000
RY34-A2014
Rahway, NJ 07065

Dear Dr. Kim:

Please refer to your biologics license application (BLA) dated and received January 23, 2025, and your amendments, under section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act for Keytruda Qlex (pembrolizumab and berahyaluronidase alfa-pmph) injection.

BLA 761467/Original 1 provides for the use of Keytruda Qlex (pembrolizumab and berahyaluronidase alfa-pmph) for the following indications:

Melanoma

- for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma. for the adjuvant treatment of adult and pediatric patients 12 years and older with Stage IIB, IIC, or III melanoma following complete resection.

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC)

- in combination with pemetrexed and platinum chemotherapy, as first-line treatment of adult patients with metastatic nonsquamous NSCLC, with no EGFR or ALK genomic tumor aberrations.
- in combination with carboplatin and either paclitaxel or paclitaxel protein-bound, as first-line treatment of adult patients with metastatic squamous NSCLC.
- as a single agent for the first-line treatment of adult patients with NSCLC expressing PD-L1 [Tumor Proportion Score (TPS) $\geq 1\%$] as determined by an FDA-approved test, with no EGFR or ALK genomic tumor aberrations, and is:
 - Stage III where patients are not candidates for surgical resection or definitive chemoradiation, or
 - metastatic.
- as a single agent for the treatment of adult patients with metastatic NSCLC whose tumors express PD-L1 (TPS $\geq 1\%$) as determined by an FDA-approved test, with disease progression on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy. Patients with EGFR or ALK genomic tumor aberrations should have disease progression on FDA-approved therapy for these aberrations prior to receiving KEYTRUDA QLEX.

- for the treatment of adult patients with resectable (tumors ≥ 4 cm or node positive) NSCLC in combination with platinum-containing chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment, and then continued as a single agent as adjuvant treatment after surgery.
- as a single agent, for adjuvant treatment following resection and platinum-based chemotherapy for adult patients with Stage IB (T2a ≥ 4 cm), II, or IIIA NSCLC.

Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma (MPM)

- in combination with pemetrexed and platinum chemotherapy, as first-line treatment of adult patients with unresectable advanced or metastatic MPM.

Head and Neck Squamous Cell Cancer (HNSCC)

- in combination with platinum and fluorouracil for the first-line treatment of adult patients with metastatic or with unresectable, recurrent HNSCC.
- as a single agent for the first-line treatment of adult patients with metastatic or with unresectable, recurrent HNSCC whose tumors express PD-L1 [Combined Positive Score (CPS) ≥ 1] as determined by an FDA-approved test.
- as a single agent for the treatment of adult patients with recurrent or metastatic HNSCC with disease progression on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy.

Urothelial Cancer

- in combination with enfortumab vedotin, for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer.
- as a single agent for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma who:
 - are not eligible for any platinum-containing chemotherapy, or
 - who have disease progression during or following platinum-containing chemotherapy or within 12 months of neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment with platinum-containing chemotherapy.
- as a single agent for the treatment of adult patients with Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG)-unresponsive, high-risk, non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) with carcinoma in situ (CIS) with or without papillary tumors who are ineligible for or have elected not to undergo cystectomy.

Microsatellite Instability-High (MSI-H) or Mismatch Repair Deficient Cancer (dMMR)

- for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 12 years and older with unresectable or metastatic MSI-H or dMMR solid tumors, as determined by an FDA-approved test, that have progressed following prior treatment and who have no satisfactory alternative treatment options.

Microsatellite Instability-High or Mismatch Repair Deficient Colorectal Cancer (CRC)

- for the treatment of adult patients with unresectable or metastatic MSI-H or dMMR CRC as determined by an FDA-approved test.

Gastric Cancer

- in combination with trastuzumab, fluoropyrimidine- and platinum-containing chemotherapy, for the first-line treatment of adults with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic HER2-positive gastric or gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma whose tumors express PD-L1 (CPS ≥ 1) as determined by an FDA-approved test.
- in combination with fluoropyrimidine- and platinum-containing chemotherapy, for the first-line treatment of adults with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic HER2-negative gastric or GEJ adenocarcinoma whose tumors express PD-L1 (CPS ≥ 1) as determined by an FDA-approved test.

Esophageal Cancer

- for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic esophageal or GEJ (tumors with epicenter 1 to 5 centimeters above the GEJ) carcinoma that is not amenable to surgical resection or definitive chemoradiation either:
 - in combination with platinum- and fluoropyrimidine-based chemotherapy for patients with tumors that express PD-L1 (CPS ≥ 1), or
 - as a single agent after one or more prior lines of systemic therapy for patients with tumors of squamous cell histology that express PD-L1 (CPS ≥ 10) as determined by an FDA-approved test.

Cervical Cancer

- in combination with chemoradiotherapy, for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced cervical cancer involving the lower third of the vagina, with or without extension to pelvic sidewall, or hydronephrosis/non-functioning kidney, or spread to adjacent pelvic organs (FIGO 2014 Stage III-IVA). (1.10)
- in combination with chemotherapy, with or without bevacizumab, for the treatment of adult patients with persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer whose tumors express PD-L1 (CPS ≥ 1) as determined by an FDA-approved test.
- as a single agent for the treatment of adult patients with recurrent or metastatic cervical cancer with disease progression on or after chemotherapy whose tumors express PD-L1 (CPS ≥ 1) as determined by an FDA-approved test.

Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)

- for the treatment of adult patients with HCC secondary to hepatitis B who have received prior systemic therapy other than a PD-1/PD-L1-containing regimen.

Biliary Tract Cancer (BTC)

- in combination with gemcitabine and cisplatin, for the treatment of adult patients with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic BTC.

Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC)

- for the treatment of adult and pediatric patients 12 years and older with recurrent locally advanced or metastatic MCC.

Renal Cell Carcinoma (RCC)

- in combination with axitinib, for the first-line treatment of adult patients with advanced RCC.
- in combination with lenvatinib, for the first-line treatment of adult patients with advanced RCC.
- for the adjuvant treatment of adult patients with RCC at intermediate-high or high risk of recurrence following nephrectomy, or following nephrectomy and resection of metastatic lesions.

Endometrial Carcinoma

- in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel, followed by KEYTRUDA QLEX as a single agent, for the treatment of adult patients with primary advanced or recurrent endometrial carcinoma.
- in combination with lenvatinib, for the treatment of adult patients with advanced endometrial carcinoma that is mismatch repair proficient (pMMR) or not MSI-H as determined by an FDA-approved test, who have disease progression following prior systemic therapy in any setting and are not candidates for curative surgery or radiation.
- as a single agent, for the treatment of adult patients with advanced endometrial carcinoma that is MSI-H or dMMR, as determined by an FDA-approved test, who have disease progression following prior systemic therapy in any setting and are not candidates for curative surgery or radiation.

Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma (cSCC)

- for the treatment of adult patients with recurrent or metastatic cSCC or locally advanced cSCC that is not curable by surgery or radiation.

Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)

- for the treatment of adult patients with high-risk early-stage TNBC in combination with chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment, and then continued as a single agent as adjuvant treatment after surgery.
- in combination with chemotherapy, for the treatment of adult patients with locally recurrent unresectable or metastatic TNBC whose tumors express PD-L1 (CPS \geq 10) as determined by an FDA-approved test.

All future submissions to BLA 761467/Original 1 should specify the BLA number and the Original number to which each submission pertains.

A separate action letter will be issued for BLA 761467/Original 2 which provides for the use of Keytruda Qlex (pembrolizumab and berahyaluronidase alfa-pmph) for an indication under accelerated approval.

LICENSING

We are issuing Department of Health and Human Services U.S. License No. 0002 to Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, Rahway, New Jersey, under the provisions of section 351(a) of the Public Health Service Act controlling the manufacture and sale of biological products. The license authorizes you to introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce, those products for which your company has demonstrated compliance with establishment and product standards.

Under this license, you are authorized to manufacture the product Keytruda Qlex (pembrolizumab and berahyaluronidase alfa-pmph) injection. Keytruda Qlex is indicated for traditional approval for the indications listed above.

MANUFACTURING LOCATIONS

Under this license, you are approved to manufacture Keytruda Qlex (pembrolizumab 165 mg/ml) drug substance at (b) (4) and Berahyaluronidase alfa drug substance at (b) (4). The final formulated drug product will be manufactured, filled, labeled at BSP Pharmaceuticals S.p.A, Latina Scalo, Italy (FEI: 3007255826), and packaged at Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, Wilson, North Carolina (FEI: 1036761), and Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V., Haarlem, Netherlands (FEI: 3002807658). You may label your product with the proprietary name, Keytruda Qlex, and market it in 2.4 mL (395 mg pembrolizumab and 4800 units berahyaluronidase alfa) and 4.8 mL (790 mg pembrolizumab and 9600 units berahyaluronidase alfa) Type (b) (4) glass vials as solution for injection for subcutaneous administration.

DATING PERIOD

The dating period for Keytruda Qlex shall be 24 months from the date of manufacture when stored at 5 ± 3 °C. The date of manufacture shall be defined as the date of final sterile filtration of the formulated drug product. The dating period for your pembrolizumab 165 mg/ml drug substance shall be (b) (4) months from the date of manufacture when stored at (b) (4) °C. The dating period for your berahyaluronidase alfa drug substance shall be (b) (4) months from the date of manufacture when stored at (b) (4) °C.

We have approved the stability protocol(s) in your license application for the purpose of extending the expiration dating period of your berahyaluronidase alfa drug substance **and** drug product under 21 CFR 601.12.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20993
www.fda.gov

FDA LOT RELEASE

You are not currently required to submit samples of future lots of Keytruda Qlex to the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) for release by the Director, CDER, under 21 CFR 610.2. We will continue to monitor compliance with 21 CFR 610.1, requiring completion of tests for conformity with standards applicable to each product prior to release of each lot.

Any changes in the manufacturing, testing, packaging, or labeling of Keytruda Qlex, or in the manufacturing facilities, will require the submission of information to your BLA for our review and written approval, consistent with 21 CFR 601.12.

APPROVAL AND 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.

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](http://www.fda.gov).¹ Content of labeling must be identical to the enclosed labeling (text for the Prescribing Information and Medication Guide). 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.

CARTON AND CONTAINER LABELING

We acknowledge your September 15, 2025, submission containing final printed carton and container labeling.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Your application for pembrolizumab and berahyaluronidase alfa-pmph was not referred to an FDA advisory committee because outside expertise was not necessary; there were no controversial issues that would benefit from advisory committee discussion.

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>.

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 study requirement for patients < 12 years of age because necessary studies are impossible or highly impracticable. This is due to the rarity of the disease in this population.

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

You must submit final promotional materials and Prescribing Information, accompanied by a Form FDA 2253, at the time of initial dissemination or publication [21 CFR 601.12(f)(4)]. Form FDA 2253 is available at FDA.gov.⁴ Information and Instructions for completing the form can be found at FDA.gov.⁵

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

You must submit adverse experience reports under the adverse experience reporting requirements for licensed biological products (21 CFR 600.80).

Prominently identify all adverse experience reports as described in 21 CFR 600.80.

You must submit distribution reports under the distribution reporting requirements for licensed biological products (21 CFR 600.81).

You must submit reports of biological product deviations under 21 CFR 600.14. You should promptly identify and investigate all manufacturing deviations, including those associated with processing, testing, packing, labeling, storage, holding and distribution. If the deviation involves a distributed product, may affect the safety, purity, or potency of

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>

the product, and meets the other criteria in the regulation, you must submit a report on Form FDA 3486 to:

Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Division of Compliance Risk Management and Surveillance
5901-B Ammendale Road
Beltsville, MD 20705-1266

Biological product deviations, sent by courier or overnight mail, should be addressed to:

Food and Drug Administration
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research
Division of Compliance Risk Management and Surveillance
10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Bldg. 51, Room 4207
Silver Spring, MD 20903

POST APPROVAL FEEDBACK MEETING

New molecular entities and new biologics qualify for a post approval feedback meeting. Such meetings are used to discuss the quality of the application and to evaluate the communication process during drug development and marketing application review. The purpose is to learn from successful aspects of the review process and to identify areas that could benefit from improvement. If you would like to have such a meeting with us, call the Regulatory Project Manager for this application.

If you have any questions, contact Ashley Lane, Senior Regulatory Project Manager, at Ashley.Lane@fda.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

{See appended electronic signature page}

R. Angelo de Claro, MD
Deputy Director (Acting)
Office of Oncologic Diseases
Office of New Drugs
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research

ENCLOSURE(S):

- Content of Labeling
 - Prescribing Information
 - Medication Guide
- Carton and Container Labeling

U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Silver Spring, MD 20993
www.fda.gov

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/

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