

Ministry of Health

Drugs and Devices Division

Drug Submission Status

Generic Name: pembrolizumab

Brand Name: Keytruda

Strength: 100mcg/4ml solution for infusion vial

Manufacturer: Merck Canada Inc.

Indication:

- First-line treatment of metastatic or unresectable recurrent head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) as monotherapy, in adult patients whose tumours have PD-L1 expression [Combined Positive Score (CPS) \geq 1] as determined by a validated test.
- First line treatment of metastatic or unresectable recurrent head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) in combination with platinum and fluorouracil (FU) chemotherapy, in adult patients.

Submission Type:	Date Submission Received:	Date Submission Deemed Complete:	Review Status:	Funding Status:
First Review: (Initial Submission)	11/12/2020	30/03/2021	Submission complete & under review	N/A

Review Status:

- Screening - Ministry is screening the manufacturer's submission to ensure all regulatory and policy requirements have been met in order to proceed with the drug review.
- Submission incomplete - Manufacturer did not meet the necessary requirements to allow review to proceed.
- Submission complete & under review - Manufacturer met all requirements to proceed with the drug review, and evaluation of the drug submission is underway.

- Committee to Evaluate Drugs* (CED) review completed, manufacturer requesting reconsideration – A recommendation was made by the CED, however the manufacturer has submitted or will be submitting additional information.
- Committee to Evaluate Drugs (CED) review completed - A recommendation was made by the CED.
- Ontario Steering Committee for Cancer Drugs** (OSCCD) review completed - A recommendation was made by the OSCCD.
- Executive Officer (EO) decision rendered.

Funding Status:

The Committee to Evaluate Drugs (CED) recommendation and the Executive Officer (EO) decision, if available, can be found at:

[The CED recommendation and the EO decision](#)

* [The Committee to Evaluate Drugs \(CED\)](#) is the Ministry's independent expert advisory committee on drug-related issues. The committee is comprised of practicing physicians, pharmacists, health economists, and patient representatives. In conducting its review, the CED considers data contained in the drug manufacturer's submission, input provided by patient groups, findings from the national Common Drug Review and the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review, and other scientific information as necessary.

** [The Ontario Steering Committee for Cancer Drugs \(OSCCD\)](#) was created to enhance and support the administration of Ontario's cancer drug programs. The committee advises the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's Ontario Public Drug Programs and Cancer Care Ontario's Provincial Drug Reimbursement Programs.