

# KEYTRUDA®

pembrolizumab

## New Zealand Consumer Medicine Information

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about KEYTRUDA. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using KEYTRUDA against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor.**

**Keep this leaflet.**

You may need to read it again.

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### What KEYTRUDA is used for

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KEYTRUDA is used to treat:

- a kind of skin cancer called melanoma.
- a kind of lung cancer called non-small cell lung cancer.
- a kind of cancer called classical Hodgkin Lymphoma.
- a kind of cancer called urothelial carcinoma, including bladder cancer.
- a kind of head and neck cancer called head and neck squamous cell carcinoma.

KEYTRUDA contains the active substance pembrolizumab.

Adults get KEYTRUDA when their cancer has spread or cannot be taken out by surgery.

KEYTRUDA may be given in combination with chemotherapy medicines. It is important that you also read the Consumer Medicine Information for these specific chemotherapy medicines. If you have any questions about these medicines, please ask your doctor.

KEYTRUDA works by helping your immune system fight your cancer.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why KEYTRUDA has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

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### Before you are given KEYTRUDA

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**KEYTRUDA should not be used in children below 18 years of age until more information becomes available.**

#### **Before you are given KEYTRUDA**

**Tell your doctor if you:**

- have a disease of your immune system like Crohn's, ulcerative colitis or lupus
- had an organ transplant (like a kidney transplant) or had a bone marrow (stem cell) transplant that used donor stem cells (allogeneic)
- have pneumonia or swelling of your lungs (called pneumonitis)
- have liver damage

### **Pregnancy**

- If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, tell your doctor.
- KEYTRUDA can cause harm or death to your unborn baby.
- You must use effective contraception while you are being treated with KEYTRUDA and for at least 4 months after the last dose of KEYTRUDA if you are a woman who could become pregnant.

### **Breast-feeding**

- If you are breastfeeding, tell your doctor.
- Do not breastfeed while taking KEYTRUDA.

### **Taking other medicines**

Tell your doctor if you

- are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop
- take other medicines that make your immune system weak. Examples of these may include steroids, such as prednisone.

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### How KEYTRUDA is given

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- Your doctor will give you KEYTRUDA through an IV for about 30 minutes.
- Most people get KEYTRUDA every 3 weeks or every 6 weeks,

depending on the dose you are given.

- Your doctor will decide how many treatments you need.

### ***If you miss a dose***

- Call your doctor right away to reschedule your appointment.
- It is very important that you do not miss a dose of this medicine.

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## **While you are being treated with KEYTRUDA**

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### ***Things you must do***

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being given KEYTRUDA.**

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are being given KEYTRUDA.**

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## **Side Effects**

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Like all medicines, KEYTRUDA can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Your doctor will discuss these with you and will explain the risks and benefits of your treatment.

**When you get KEYTRUDA, you can have some serious side effects. These side effects can sometimes become life-threatening and can lead to death. These side effects may happen anytime during treatment or even after your treatment has ended. You may experience more than one side effect at the same time.**

**If you have any of the following symptoms, call or see your doctor right away.**

- **Signs and symptoms of lung problems**

- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- coughing

- **Signs and symptoms of problems with your intestines**

- diarrhoea or more bowel movements than usual
- your stools are black, tarry, sticky or have blood or mucus
- severe stomach pain or tenderness

- **Signs and symptoms of liver problems**

- nausea or vomiting
- feeling less hungry
- pain on the right side of your stomach
- your skin looks yellow
- the whites of your eyes look yellow
- dark urine
- you bleed or bruise more easily than normal

- **Signs and symptoms of kidney problems**

- changes in the amount or colour of your urine

- **Signs and symptoms of hormone gland problems (especially the thyroid, pituitary, and adrenal glands)**

- rapid heart beat
- weight loss
- increased sweating
- weight gain
- hair loss
- feeling cold
- constipation
- your voice gets deeper
- muscle aches
- dizziness or fainting
- headaches that will not go away or unusual headache

- **Signs and symptoms of blood sugar problems**

- feeling more hungry or thirsty

- needing to urinate more often
- weight loss

- **Signs and symptoms of skin problems**

- rash
- itching
- skin blistering, peeling or sores
- ulcers in mouth or in lining of nose, throat, or genital area

- **Signs and symptoms of problems in other organs**

- muscle pain or weakness
- changes in eyesight
- stomach area pain with nausea and vomiting (pancreatitis)
- shortness of breath, irregular heartbeat, feeling tired, or chest pain (myocarditis)
- confusion, fever, memory problems, or seizures (encephalitis)
- swollen lymph nodes, rash or tender lumps on skin, cough, or eye pain (sarcoidosis)

**There are possible side effects of treatment with KEYTRUDA in people who have received a transplant.**

### **Rejection of a transplanted organ.**

People who have had an organ transplant may have an increased risk of organ transplant rejection. Your doctor should tell you what signs and symptoms you should report and monitor you, depending on the type of organ transplant that you have had.

### **Graft-versus-host-disease (GVHD) in people with bone marrow (stem cell) transplant that uses donor stem cells (allogeneic).**

GVHD may occur if you had this transplant in the past. Your doctor will monitor you for the following signs and symptoms: skin rash, liver

inflammation, abdominal pain, and diarrhoea.

- **Signs and symptoms of infusion (IV) reactions**
  - shortness of breath
  - itching or rash
  - dizziness
  - fever

The following side effects have been reported in clinical trials:

**Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)**

- diarrhoea, nausea
- itching, rash
- joint pain
- back pain
- feeling tired
- cough
- patches of skin which have lost colour
- stomach pain
- decreased sodium levels in the blood

The following side effects have been reported in more than 1 in 5 people when KEYTRUDA was given in combination with chemotherapy:

- hair loss
- feeling tired
- diarrhoea
- decrease in white blood cell count
- joint pain
- rash

Less common side effects can happen.

Also, your doctor may do blood tests to check for side effects.

KEYTRUDA may cause other side effects that are not listed. For more information, ask your doctor.

If you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away, tell your doctor.

**Ask your doctor to answer any questions you may have.**

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## Storage

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It is unlikely that you will be asked to store KEYTRUDA yourself. It will usually be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward.

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## Product Description

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### *What it looks like*

KEYTRUDA powder for solution for infusion comes as a white to off-white powder in a glass vial.

KEYTRUDA concentrate for solution for infusion comes as a clear to slightly opalescent, colourless to slightly yellow solution in a glass vial.

### *Ingredients*

Active ingredient:

- pembrolizumab

Inactive ingredients:

- Histidine
- Histidine monohydrochloride monohydrate
- Sucrose
- Polysorbate-80
- Water for injection

### *Supplier*

KEYTRUDA is supplied in New Zealand by:

Merck Sharp & Dohme (New Zealand) Limited  
PO Box 99-851  
Newmarket  
Auckland 1149  
New Zealand

Telephone: 0800 500 673

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