

Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®)

Place of Service
Office Administration
Outpatient Facility Infusion
Administration
Infusion Center Administration

HCPCS: J9271 per 1 mg

Condition(s) listed in policy (see criteria for details)

- [Appendiceal carcinoma](#)
- [Adrenocortical carcinoma](#)
- [Anal cancer](#)
- [Anaplastic large cell lymphoma \(ALCL\), cutaneous](#)
- [Biliary tract cancers \(gallbladder cancer and intrahepatic and extrahepatic cholangiocarcinomas\)](#)
- [Breast cancer \(triple negative\)](#)
- [Cervical cancer](#)
- [Colorectal cancer](#)
- [Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma](#)
- [Endometrial cancer](#)
- [Esophageal cancer](#)
- [Esophagogastric junction cancer](#)
- [Extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma, nasal type](#)
- [Gastric cancer](#)
- [Gestational trophoblastic neoplasia](#)
- [Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma](#)
- [Hepatocellular carcinoma](#)
- [Hodgkin lymphoma, classical](#)
- [Kaposi sarcoma](#)
- [Melanoma: cutaneous](#)
- [Melanoma: uveal](#)
- [Merkel cell carcinoma](#)
- [Mycosis fungoides or Sezary syndrome](#)
- [Non-muscle invasive bladder cancer \(NMIBC\)](#)
- [Non-small cell lung cancer](#)
- [Primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma](#)
- [Renal cell carcinoma](#)
- [Small cell lung cancer](#)
- [Soft tissue sarcoma](#)
- [Solid tumor, dMMR/ MSI-H or TMB-H](#)
- [Thymic carcinoma](#)
- [Urothelial carcinoma](#)
- [Vulvar cancer](#)

AHFS therapeutic class: Antineoplastic Agents

Mechanism of action: Human programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1) blocking antibody

(1) Special Instructions and pertinent Information

Covered under the Medical Benefit, please submit clinical information for prior authorization review via fax.

(2) Prior Authorization/Medical Review is required for the following condition(s)

All requests for Keytruda® (pembrolizumab) must be sent for clinical review and receive authorization prior to drug administration or claim payment.

Appendiceal carcinoma or Colorectal cancer

1. Patient has defective mismatch repair/high microsatellite instability (dMMR/ MSI-H), **AND**
2. Being used as a single agent, **AND**
3. Meets one of the following:
 - a. Being used as neoadjuvant treatment of clinical T4b disease, or
 - b. Disease is locally unresectable or medically inoperable, or
 - c. Unresectable advanced, metastatic, or metachronous metastatic disease, and patient has not received prior treatment with PD-1/ PD-L1 immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C17.0-C17.2, C17.8, C17.9, C18.0-C18.9, C19, C20, C21.8

Adrenocortical carcinoma

1. Disease is locoregional unresectable or metastatic, **AND**
2. Being used with or without mitotane

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, or up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C74.00-C74.02, C74.90-C74.92, C7B.00-C7B.04, C7B.8, Z85.858

Anal cancer

1. Metastatic disease, **AND**
2. Used for subsequent treatment of metastatic cancer, **AND**
3. Being used as a single agent

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, or up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C21.0, C21.1, C21.2, C21.8

Anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL), cutaneous

1. Being used for primary cutaneous ALCL with multifocal lesions, or cutaneous ALCL with regional node (N1), **AND**
2. Disease is relapsed or refractory, **AND**
3. Being used as a single agent

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, or up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C86.6

Biliary tract cancers (gallbladder cancer and intrahepatic and extrahepatic cholangiocarcinomas)

1. Disease is locally advanced unresectable, resected gross residual (R2), or metastatic, **AND**
2. Being used in combination with gemcitabine and cisplatin

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, or up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C22.1, C23, C24, C24.8, C24.9

Breast cancer (triple-negative)

1. HER2-negative, **AND**
2. HR negativity (ER and PR negativity), **AND**
3. Meets either of the following:
 - a. Used for neoadjuvant and adjuvant treatment, **OR**
 - b. Recurrent unresectable or metastatic disease and all the following:

- i. Used in combination with chemotherapy, AND
- ii. Tumor has PD-L1 expression ≥ 10 on the Combined Positive Score (CPS) determined by an FDA approved test

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, or up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Neoadjuvant: 24 weeks (8 doses of 200 mg every 3 weeks or 4 doses of 400 mg every 6 weeks)

Adjuvant: 27 weeks (9 doses of 200 mg every 3 weeks or 5 doses of 400 mg every 6 weeks)

Recurrent unresectable or metastatic: Indefinite

ICD-10:

C50.011, C50.012, C50.019, C50.021, C50.022, C50.029, C50.111, C50.112, C50.119, C50.121, C50.122, C50.129, C50.211, C50.212, C50.219, C50.221, C50.222, C50.229, C50.311, C50.312, C50.319, C50.321, C50.322, C50.329, C50.411, C50.412, C50.419, C50.421, C50.422, C50.429, C50.511, C50.512, C50.519, C50.521, C50.522, C50.529, C50.611, C50.612, C50.619, C50.621, C50.622, C50.629, C50.811, C50.812, C50.819, C50.821, C50.822, C50.829, C50.911, C50.912, C50.919, C50.921, C50.922, C50.929

Cervical cancer

1. Either of the following:
 - a. Disease is PD-L1 positive (combined positive score [CPS] ≥ 1) and all the following:
 - i. Persistent, recurrent, or metastatic disease, **AND**
 - ii. One of the following:
 1. Being used as a single agent for second-line or subsequent treatment after chemotherapy for recurrent or metastatic disease, or
 2. Being used in combination with cisplatin or carboplatin, paclitaxel, and with or without bevacizumab
 - OR
 - b. Disease is Stage III-IV and being used in combination with chemotherapy

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C53.0, C53.1, C53.8, C53.9, C79.89, C79.9, Z80.49

Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

1. Recurrent, locally advanced, or metastatic disease, **AND**

2. Being used as a single agent

Covered Doses

Adults:

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C44.02, C44.121, C44.1221, C44.1222, C44.1291, C44.1292, C44.221, C44.222, C44.229, C44.320, C44.321, C44.329, C44.42, C44.520, C44.521, C44.529, C44.621, C44.622, C44.629, C44.721, C44.722, C44.729, C44.82, C44.92

Endometrial cancer

1. One of the following:
 - a. Being used as a single agent therapy and all of the following:
 - i. Disease has progressed on one or more prior lines of systemic therapy, and
 - ii. Patient has defective mismatch repair or high microsatellite instability,
 - OR
 - b. Being used in combination with carboplatin and paclitaxel for stage III or IV (metastatic), or recurrent disease,
 - OR
 - c. Being used in combination with Lenvima and patient does not have defective mismatch repair or high microsatellite instability

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C54.0-C54.3, C54.8, C54.9, C55

Esophageal cancer, Esophagogastric junction (EGJ) cancer and Gastric cancer

1. One of the following:
 - a. Disease is unresectable locally advanced, recurrent, or metastatic, OR
 - b. Patient is not a surgical candidate

AND

2. One of the following:
 - a. Esophageal or EGJ cancer, and being used in combination with a fluoropyrimidine- (fluorouracil or capecitabine) and a platinum-containing (oxaliplatin or cisplatin) chemotherapy for, OR

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- b. HER 2+ gastric or EGJ adenocarcinoma, and being used in combination with trastuzumab, fluoropyrimidine- (fluorouracil or capecitabine), and a platinum-containing (oxaliplatin or cisplatin) chemotherapy, OR
- c. HER 2-negative gastric or EGJ adenocarcinoma and all the following:
 - i. Being used as first-line treatment, and
 - ii. Being used in combination with fluoropyrimidine- and platinum-containing chemotherapy
 OR
- d. Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma and all the following:
 - i. Being used as a single agent, and
 - ii. Disease progression on 1 or more prior lines of systemic therapy, and
 - iii. Tumor has PD-L1 expression ≥ 10 on the Combined Positive Score (CPS) as determined by the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx test

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C15.3-C15.5, C15.8, C15.9, C16.0-C16.6, C16.8, C16.9, D37.1, D37.8, D37.9, Z85.00, Z85.01, Z85.028

Extranodal NK/T-cell lymphoma, nasal type

- 1. Relapsed or refractory disease, **AND**
- 2. Being used as a single agent

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C15.3-C15.5, C15.8, C15.9, C16.0, D37.8, D37.9, Z85.00, Z85.01

Gestational trophoblastic neoplasia

- 1. Being used as single-agent therapy, **AND**
- 2. Disease is multiagent chemotherapy-resistant

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

D39.2, C58

Head and neck cancers

1. Disease is unresectable, recurrent, persistent, or metastatic, **AND**
2. One of the following:
 - a. Being used as a single agent and one of the following:
 - i. For first line treatment or subsequent treatment if not previously used, and tumors express PD-L1 (Combined Positive Score [CPS] ≥ 1) as determined by the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx kit, or
 - ii. As subsequent line treatment after disease progression on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy and Patient has not received prior treatment with PD-1/PD-L1 immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy
 - OR
 - b. Being used in combination with platinum and fluorouracil (FU) or docetaxel, OR
 - c. Being used in combination with cisplatin and gemcitabine for nasopharyngeal cancer

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C00.0-C00.6, C00.8, C01, C02.0-C02.4, C02.8, C02.9, C03.0, C03.1, C03.9, C04.0, C04.1, C04.8, C04.9, C05.0, C05.1, C06.0, C06.2, C06.80, C06.89, C06.9, C09.0, C09.1, C09.8, C09.9, C10.3, C11.0-C11.3, C11.8, C11.9, C12, C13.0-C13.2, C13.8, C13.9, C14.0, C14.2, C14.8, C31.0, C31.1, C32.0-C32.3, C32.8, C32.9, C44.00, C44.02, C44.09, C76.0, C77.0, C78.89, D37.01, D37.02, D37.05, D37.09, D38.0, D38.5, D38.6, Z85.21, Z85.22, Z85.810, Z85.818, Z85.819

Hepatocellular carcinoma

1. Disease has progressed on or after prior systemic therapy, **AND**
2. Being used as a single agent

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C22.0, C22.8, C22.9

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Effective: 02/28/2024

Page 7 of 17

Hodgkin lymphoma, classical

1. One of the following:
 - a. Being used as a single agent, or
 - b. Being used in combination with GVD (gemcitabine, vinorelbine, liposomal doxorubicin), or
 - c. Being used in combination with ICE (ifosfamide, carboplatin, etoposide)

AND

2. One of the following:
 - a. Disease has relapsed, refractory or progressive, OR
 - b. Being used as palliative treatment in adults greater than 60 years of age

Covered Doses

Adults:

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Pediatrics:

Up to 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) every 3 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C81.10-C81.19, C81.20-C81.29, C81.30-C81.39, C81.40-C81.49, C81.70-C81.79, C81.90-C81.99, Z85.71

Kaposi sarcoma

1. Endemic or classic subtype, **AND**
2. Relapsed/refractory advanced cutaneous, oral, visceral, or nodal disease, **AND**
3. Being used as a single agent for subsequent therapy

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks for 8 cycles (8 doses)

Coverage Period

6 months

ICD-10:

C46.0, C46.1, C46.2, C46.3, C46.4, C46.50, C46.51, C46.52, C46.7, C46.9

Melanoma: cutaneous

1. Meets either of the following:
 - a. Adjuvant treatment of disease as a single agent, **OR**
 - b. Single agent for treatment of limited resectable disease of one of the following:

- i. stage III disease with clinical satellite/in-transit metastases or
- ii. local satellite/in-transit recurrence,

OR

- c. Metastatic or unresectable disease and meets one of the following:
 - i. Used as a single agent, OR
 - ii. Used in combination with low-dose ipilimumab (1 mg/kg) or lenvatinib, and has had disease progression on an anti-PD-1/anti-PD-L1 immunotherapy drug, OR
 - iii. Used in combination with Tafenlar and Mekinist for BRAF V600 activating mutation as subsequent or re-induction therapy

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Adjuvant: Up to 1 year

Metastatic or unresectable: Indefinite

ICD-10:

C43.0, C43.10-C43.12, C43.20-C43.22, C43.30, C43.31, C43.39, C43.4, C43.51, C43.52, C43.59-C43.62, C43.70-C43.72, C43.8, C43.9

Melanoma: uveal

1. Disease is unresectable or metastatic, **AND**
2. Being used as single agent therapy

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C69.30-C69.32, C69.40 -C69.42, C69.60-C69.62

Merkel cell carcinoma

1. Disease is recurrent or metastatic (includes disseminated), **AND**
2. Being used as a single agent

Covered Doses

Adults:

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Pediatrics:

Up to 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) every 3 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C4A.0, C4A.10-C4A.12, C4A.20-C4A.22, C4A.30, C4A.31, C4A.39, C4A.4, C4A.51, C4A.52, C4A.59-C4A.62, C4A.70-C4A.72, C4A.8, C4A.9, C7B.1, Z85.821

Mycosis fungoides or Sezary syndrome

1. Not being used in combination with other systemic therapies

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg per dose IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C84.00-C84.09, C84.10-C84.19

Non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC)

1. Diagnosis of high-risk non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) with

carcinoma in situ (CIS), **AND**

2. Patient did not respond to Bacillus Calmette-Guerin (BCG) therapy

Covered Doses

Monotherapy:

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C67.0-C67.9, D09.0, Z85.51

Non-small cell lung cancer

1. Either of the following:
 - a. Being used in combination with platinum-containing chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment followed by single agent adjuvant treatment after surgery, **OR**
 - b. Being used as a single agent for adjuvant treatment following previous adjuvant chemotherapy, **OR**
 - c. Disease is advanced, recurrent, or metastatic and one of the following:
 - i. Single agent use, OR
 - ii. In combination with either carboplatin or cisplatin, and either paclitaxel or Abraxane for squamous histology, OR
 - iii. In combination with either carboplatin or cisplatin, and pemetrexed for nonsquamous histology, OR
 - iv. Maintenance treatment and one of the following:
 1. In combination with Alimta after treatment with Keytruda, pemetrexed, and carboplatin/cisplatin for nonsquamous histology, or
 2. As a single agent after treatment with Keytruda, Abraxane/paclitaxel and carboplatin/cisplatin for squamous histology

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C33, C34.00-C34.02, C34.10-C34.12, C34.2, C34.30-C34.32, C34.80-C34.82, C34.90-C34.92, Z85.118

Primary mediastinal large B-cell lymphoma

1. Refractory or relapsed disease, **AND**
2. Being used as a single agent

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Effective: 02/28/2024

Page 11 of 17

Covered Doses

Adults

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Pediatrics

Up to 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) IV every 3 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C85.20-C85.29

Renal cell carcinoma

1. Either of the following:

a. Adjuvant treatment following nephrectomy and one of the following:

- Being used as a single agent, or
- ***Through 1/28/2024***, used in combination with Inlyta (axitinib) or Lenvima (lenvatinib)

OR

b. Disease is locally advanced, metastatic, or relapsed/recurrent and one of the following:

- Being used as a single agent, and ***effective 1/28/2024 and after***, patient has non-clear cell histology, or
- Used in combination with Inlyta (axitinib) or Lenvima (lenvatinib)

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C64.1, C64.2, C64.9, C65.1, C65.2, C65.9, Z85.528

Small cell lung cancer

1. Used as single agent, **AND**

2. Either of the following:

a. Primary progressive disease, or

b. Relapsed disease and relapse did not occur while receiving maintenance therapy with Imfinzi or Tecentriq

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C7A.1, C33, C34.00-C34.02, C34.10-C34.12, C34.2, C34.30-C34.32, C34.80-C34.82, C34.90-C34.92, C78.00-C78.02, C79.31, C79.51, C79.52

Soft tissue sarcoma

1. Meets one of the following:
 - a. Alveolar soft part sarcoma, and being used as a single agent or in combination with Inlyta (axitinib), **OR**
 - b. Cutaneous angiosarcoma, and being used as a single agent, **OR**
 - c. Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS), myxofibrosarcoma, dedifferentiated liposarcoma, pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma, or undifferentiated sarcomas and all of the following:
 - i. Being used for unresectable, or metastatic (stage IV) disease, and
 - ii. Being used as subsequent therapy

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, or up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C22.3, C47.0, C47.10-C47.12, C47.20-C47.22, C47.3, C47.4, C47.5, C47.6, C47.8, C47.9, C48.0-C48.2, C48.8, C49.0, C49.10-C49.12, C49.20-C49.22, C49.3, C49.4, C49.5, C49.6, C49.8, C49.9, C49.10-C49.12, C49.20-C49.22, C49.3-C49.6, C49.8, C49.9, Z85.831

Solid tumors, dMMR/ MSI-H or TMB-H

1. Either of the following:
 - a. Patient has defective mismatch repair (dMMR)/high microsatellite instability(MSI-H) (laboratory test), **OR**
 - b. Patient has tumor mutational burden-high (TMB-H) [10 mutations/megabase (mut/Mb)] (FDA approved test),

AND

2. Being used as a single agent, **AND**
3. One of the following:
 - a. Initial therapy supported by NCCN, **OR**
 - b. Disease has progressed following prior treatment, **OR**
 - c. There are no alternative treatment options

Covered Doses

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Effective: 02/28/2024

Page 13 of 17

Adults:

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Pediatrics:

Up to 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) IV every 3 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10: Any solid tumor

Thymic carcinoma

1. Postoperative residual tumor (R1/R2 resection), locally advanced, unresectable, or metastatic disease, **AND**
2. Being used as a single agent

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C37, D15.0

Urothelial carcinoma

1. Locally advanced, recurrent, or metastatic disease, **AND**
2. Either of the following:
 - a. Being used as a single agent, and one of the following:
 - i. First line treatment in patients who are not eligible for any platinum-containing chemotherapy, or
 - ii. Being used as subsequent therapy
 - OR**
 - b. Being used in combination with Padcev (enfortumab vedotin)

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C61, C65.1, C65.2, C65.9, C66.1, C66.2, C66.9, C67.0-C67.9, C68.0, Z85.59, D09.0, Z85.51

Vulvar cancer

1. Advanced, recurrent, or metastatic disease, **AND**
2. Squamous cell carcinoma or adenocarcinoma histology, **AND**
3. Being used as a single agent, **AND**
4. Disease progression on or after chemotherapy, **AND**
5. Tumor has PD-L1 expression ≥ 1 on the CPS as determined by an FDA approved test

Covered Doses

Up to 200 mg IV every 3 weeks, OR up to 400 mg IV every 6 weeks

Coverage Period

Indefinite

ICD-10:

C51.0-C51.2, C51.8, C51.9

(3) The following condition(s) DO NOT require Prior Authorization/Preservice

All requests for Keytruda® (pembrolizumab) must be sent for clinical review and receive authorization prior to drug administration or claim payment.

(4) This Medication is NOT medically necessary for the following condition(s)

Coverage for a Non-FDA approved indication, requires that criteria outlined in Health and Safety Code § 1367.21, including objective evidence of efficacy and safety are met for the proposed indication.

Please refer to the Provider Manual and User Guide for more information.

(5) Additional Information

How supplied:

- 100 mg (single-use vial)

(6) References

- AHFS®. Available by subscription at <http://www.lexi.com>
- DrugDex®. Available by subscription at <http://www.micromedexsolutions.com/home/dispatch>
- Keytruda® (pembrolizumab) [Prescribing information]. Whitehouse Station, NJ: Merck & CO., inc.; 2023.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network Drugs and Biologics Compendium. Keytruda (2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Anal Carcinoma (Version 3.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. B-cell Lymphomas (Version 6.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.

- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Bladder Cancer (Version 3.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Breast Cancer (Version 4.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Cervical Cancer (Version 1.2024). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Colon Cancer (Version 3.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers (Version 3.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Gastric Cancer (Version 2.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Gestational Trophoblastic Neoplasia (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Head and Neck Cancers (Version 1.2024). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Hepatobiliary Cancers (Version 2.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Hodgkin Lymphoma (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Kidney Cancer (Version 1.2024). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Melanoma: Cutaneous (Version 2.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Merkel Cell Carcinoma (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Neuroendocrine and Adrenal Tumors (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Non-small Cell Lung Cancer (Version 3.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Primary Cutaneous Lymphomas (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Small Cell Lung Cancer (Version 1.2024). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Soft Tissue Sarcoma (Version 2.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Squamous Cell Skin Cancer (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Rectal Cancer (Version 5.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. T-cell Lymphomas (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Thymomas and Thymic Carcinomas (Version 1.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Uterine Neoplasms Cancer (Version 2.2023). Available at: www.nccn.org.
- National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Vulvar Cancer (Version 1.2024). Available at: www.nccn.org.

Commercial

Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®)

(7) Policy Update

Date of last revision: 1Q2024

Date of next review: 4Q2024

Changes from previous policy version:

- New indication in Section (2): Added coverage for biliary tract cancers. *Rationale: In October 2023, FDA approved Keytruda, in combination with gemcitabine and cisplatin, for the treatment of patients with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic biliary tract cancer; NCCN category 1 support*
- Section (2): Cervical cancer – Added coverage in combination with chemoradiotherapy for Stage III-IV cancer. *Rationale: In January 2024, FDA approved Keytruda in combination with chemoradiotherapy, for the treatment of patients with FIGO 2014 Stage III-IVA cervical cancer*
- Section (2): Esophageal cancer, Esophagogastric junction (EGJ) cancer and Gastric cancer – Added coverage for combination first-line treatment of HER2-negative gastric or gastroesophageal junction adenocarcinoma. *Rationale: In November 2023, FDA approved Keytruda 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 gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma*
- Section (2): Non-small cell lung cancer – Expanded coverage to include combination neoadjuvant treatment followed by single agent adjuvant treatment after surgery. *Rationale: In October, 2023 FDA approved Keytruda for treatment of resectable NSCLC in combination with platinum-containing chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment, then continued as single agent as adjuvant treatment after surgery; NCCN category 1 support*
- Section (2): Hodgkin lymphoma, classical - Expanded coverage to include combination treatment with ICE. *Rationale: NCCN category 2A support*
- Section (2): Urothelial carcinoma - Removed requirement for cisplatin-ineligibility from coverage of combination treatment with Padcev. *Rationale: In December 2023, FDA expanded the indication of combination Padcev + Keytruda for treatment of adult patients with locally advanced or metastatic urothelial cancer to include cisplatin-eligible patients*

*BSC Drug Coverage Criteria to Determine Medical Necessity
Reviewed by P&T Committee*