Bristol-Myers Squibb

MEDIA RELEASE

FOUR WEEKLY DOSING OF IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY TREATMENT FOR CANCER PATIENTS AVAILABLE ON THE PBS FROM 1st SEPTEMBER 2019

Immuno-oncology treatment four-weekly dosing schedule to receive a PBS listing for all reimbursed indications, where Opdivo is used as a therapy

Melbourne, Australia. 1st September 2019: Bristol-Myers Squibb today announced that patients undergoing immuno-oncology (IO) treatment will now have access to four-weekly dosing of OPDIVO® (nivolumab) via the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) for a range of cancers from September 1, 2019.

The PBS listing will mean that patients can now receive OPDIVO® every four weeks. Prior to this listing, OPDIVO® was only available to patients at two weekly intervals.

OPDIVO® is an immuno-oncology (I-O) agent that uses the body's natural defences – the immune system – to fight cancer. I-O agents enable the immune system to recognise and attack cancer cells.

Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia and New Zealand Medical Director Dr. Melinda Munns said that this PBS listing represents an important milestone for patients.

"BMS is proud to help meet the varied needs of individual patients. The option of four-weekly dosing provides patients with greater flexibility to fit their treatments into their schedules away from the clinic. Immuno-oncology is a rapidly evolving field and this PBS listing is another step in helping more patients access this treatment," said Dr. Munns.

The additional option of four-weekly dosing is now available on the PBS for four distinct tumour types in advanced melanoma, advanced lung, advanced kidney cancers and head and neck cancer: [1]

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About Immuno-Oncology (I-O)
Immuno-oncology is based on the premise that the immune system could be a powerful and effective tool for recognising and fighting disease. Immuno-oncology treatments are designed to harness the patient's own immune system to combat cancer by targeting the same immune pathways that tumour cells use to evade recognition and destruction.

About OPDIVO's safety
OPDIVO® acts on the immune system and may cause inflammation. Inflammation may cause serious damage to a patient's body and some inflammatory conditions may be life-threatening. The most common side effects reported in OPDIVO® clinical trials include fatigue, rash, pruritus, diarrhea, musculoskeletal pain, arthralgia, hypothyroidism and nausea.[2]

Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia Pty Ltd, ABN 33 004 333 322. 4 Nexus Court, Mulgrave, VIC 3170.
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Further information about OPDIVO can be found in the Consumer Medical Information here.

OPDIVO® (nivolumab) is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

Bristol-Myers Squibb: Advancing Oncology Research
At Bristol-Myers Squibb, patients are at the center of everything we do. The focus of our research is to increase quality, long-term survival for patients with cancer and make cure a possibility. Through a unique multidisciplinary approach powered by translational science, we harness our deep scientific experience in oncology and Immuno-Oncology (I-O) research, to identify novel treatments tailored to individual patient needs.

Our researchers are developing a diverse, purposefully built pipeline designed to target different immune system pathways and address the complex and specific interactions between the tumor, its microenvironment and immune system. We source innovation internally and in collaboration with academia, government, advocacy groups and biotechnology companies, to help make the promise of transformational medicines, like I-O, a reality for patients.

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About Bristol-Myers Squibb

Bristol-Myers Squibb is a global biopharmaceutical company whose mission is to discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines that help patients prevail over serious diseases. For more information about Bristol-Myers Squibb, visit us at https://www.bms.com/au.

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REFERENCES

1. Department of Health. Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). Available at: www.pbs.gov.au [Accessed July 2019]
2. OPDIVO. Approved Product Information

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