

Technology Guidance

Pembrolizumab

for treating resectable locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

Technology Guidance from the MOH Drug Advisory Committee

Guidance Recommendations

The Ministry of Health's Drug Advisory Committee has recommended:

- ✓ Pembrolizumab 100 mg/4 mL solution for infusion for treatment of patients with resectable stage III-IVA locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma whose tumours express PD-L1 with a CPS ≥ 1 as determined by a validated test, as neoadjuvant treatment, continued as adjuvant treatment in combination with radiotherapy with or without concomitant cisplatin and then as monotherapy.

The decision was based on the acceptable clinical effectiveness and pricing proposal by the company.

Funding status

Pembrolizumab 100 mg/4 mL solution for infusion is recommended for inclusion on the Medication Assistance Fund (MAF) for the abovementioned indication from 1 December 2026.

Clinical indication, subsidy class and MediShield Life claims eligibility for pembrolizumab are provided in the Annex.

ANNEX

Recommendations by the MOH Drug Advisory Committee

Drug preparation	Approved clinical indication	Subsidy class (implementation date)	Eligible for MediShield Life claims (implementation date)
Pembrolizumab 100 mg/4 mL solution for infusion	Pembrolizumab for the treatment of patients with resectable stage III-IVA locally advanced head and neck squamous cell carcinoma whose tumours express PD-L1 with a CPS $\geq$ 1 as determined by a validated test, as neoadjuvant treatment, continued as adjuvant treatment in combination with radiotherapy (RT) with or without concomitant cisplatin and then as monotherapy. Treatment with pembrolizumab should be stopped after a maximum of 17 doses (based on a 3-weekly regimen) or 9 doses (based on a 6 weekly dose regimen) across neoadjuvant and adjuvant phases, or earlier if disease progresses or recurs.	MAF (1 Dec 2026)	Yes ¹ (1 Dec 2026)

Abbreviation: CPS, combined positive score; MAF, Medication Assistance Fund; PD-L1, programmed cell death-ligand 1

¹ Please refer to [MOH's website](#) for the MediShield Life claim limit starting from the implementation date.

 Agency for Care Effectiveness - ACE  Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE)

About the Agency

The Agency for Care Effectiveness (ACE) was established by the Ministry of Health (Singapore) to drive better decision-making in healthcare through health technology assessment (HTA), clinical guidelines and education.

As the national HTA agency, ACE conducts evaluations to inform government funding decisions for treatments, diagnostic tests and vaccines, and produces guidance for public hospitals and institutions in Singapore.

The guidance is not, and should not be regarded as, a substitute for professional or medical advice. Please seek the advice of a qualified healthcare professional about any medical condition. The responsibility for making decisions appropriate to the circumstances of the individual patient remains with the healthcare professional.

Find out more about ACE at <https://www.ace-hta.gov.sg/about-us/>

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