

25 May 2016

Danae Staples-Moon
Therapeutic Group Manager
PHARMAC
P O Box 10-254
Wellington
Sent by email: danae.staples-moon@pharmac.govt.nz

Dear Danae,

Consultation relating to nivolumab (Opdivo)

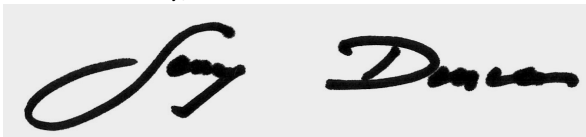
On behalf of the MelNet Executive Committee I would like to thank you and your colleagues for providing the opportunity for Dr Catherine Barrow and me to meet with PHARMAC on Wednesday 11 May as part of your consultation relating to nivolumab (Opdivo). Also, thank you for ensuring that we were notified of the public availability of the minutes of the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee's (PTAC) consideration of the funding application for nivolumab and the minutes of the Cancer Treatments Subcommittee of PTAC's consideration of the application from their April meeting.

As discussed at our meeting on 11 May, MelNet supports the proposal to list nivolumab (Opdivo) on the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 July 2016 for patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma. Also, as discussed, we recognise that the proposed introduction of nivolumab throughout New Zealand so soon after funding approval will present challenges to District Health Boards in providing the resources to deliver treatment. We would be pleased to offer whatever help and support we can in addressing these challenges.

At our meeting we also highlighted the importance of PHARMAC reassuring patients that there is no significant difference between Opdivo and Keytruda; clarification is needed regarding the fact that more data are available for nivolumab (Opdivo) at this point in time.

Finally, we would like to highlight the need to maintain a robust database to ensure that the introduction of nivolumab (Opdivo) is adequately monitored and that the data collected are available for analysis. As we have the appropriate expertise within MelNet, we would be pleased to assist in whatever way we can with such monitoring and analysis.

Yours sincerely,



Gary Duncan MBChB, FRACS
Consultant Plastic Surgeon and Chair, MelNet Executive Committee
(Electronically sighted/approved)