

Pembrolizumab, PACLitaxel 175mg/m², CARBOplatin AUC 5 and Bevacizumab Therapy

Note: There is an option for Pembrolizumab, PACLitaxel and CARBOplatin Therapy as described in NCCP regimen 00817

INDICATIONS FOR USE:

INDICATION	ICD10	Regimen Code	Reimbursement Status
Treatment of persistent, recurrent, or metastatic cervical cancer in adults whose tumours express PD-L1 with a CPS \geq 1	C53	00811a	Pembrolizumab: Reimbursement by exception ⁱ PACLitaxel, CARBOplatin Bevacizumab: hospital

TREATMENT:

The starting dose of the drugs detailed below may be adjusted downward by the prescribing clinician, using their independent medical judgement, to consider each patients individual clinical circumstances.

Pembrolizumab, PACLitaxel, CARBOplatin and bevacizumab are administered on Day 1 of a 21 Day cycle and continued for 6 -8 cycles. Patients experiencing ongoing clinical benefit may continue beyond 6 cycles of PACLitaxel and CARBOplatin at the discretion of their treating clinician.

Pembrolizumab is continued as maintenance until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity occurs. Bevacizumab is continued as maintenance until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity occurs.

Atypical responses (i.e., an initial transient increase in tumour size or small new lesions within the first few months followed by tumour shrinkage) have been observed. It is recommended to continue treatment for clinically stable patients with initial evidence of disease progression until disease progression is confirmed.

Facilities to treat anaphylaxis MUST be present when the systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) is administered.

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Table 1. Pembrolizumab, PACLitaxel, CARBOplatin and Bevacizumab Therapy

Admin. Order	Day	Drug	Dose	Route	Diluent & Rate	Cycle
1	1	Pembrolizumab ^a	200mg	IV infusion	100ml 0.9% NaCl over 30 mins using a low-protein binding 0.2 to 5 micrometre in-line or add-on filter	Every 21 days
2	1	PACLitaxel ^{b,c}	175mg/m ²	IV infusion	500ml 0.9% sodium chloride over 3 hours	Every 21 days
3	1	CARBOplatin	AUC 5	IV infusion	500ml glucose 5% over 30 mins	Every 21 days
4	1	Bevacizumab	15mg/kg	IV infusion	100ml 0.9% NaCl over 90 mins ^{d,e}	Every 21 days
^a Pembrolizumab is diluted to a final concentration ranging from 1-10mg/ml.						
^b PACLitaxel must be supplied in non-PVC containers and administered using non-PVC giving sets and through an in-line 0.22 µm filter with a microporous membrane.						
^c PACLitaxel should be diluted to a concentration of 0.3-1.2mg/ml.						
^d Flush line with NaCl 0.9% pre and post bevacizumab dose as it should not be mixed with glucose solutions.						
^e The initial dose of bevacizumab should be delivered over 90 minutes as an intravenous infusion. If the first infusion is well tolerated, the second infusion may be administered over 60 minutes. If the 60-minute infusion is well tolerated, all subsequent infusions may be administered over 30 minutes. Alternatively, the unlicensed use of shorter infusion times ⁱⁱ is described in the NCCP Bevacizumab Rapid Infusion Rate Guidance here . It should not be administered as an intravenous push or bolus.						

Table 2. Maintenance Therapy with Pembrolizumab and Bevacizumab

Admin. Order	Day	Drug	Dose	Route	Diluent & Rate	Cycle
1	1	Pembrolizumab ^a	200mg	IV infusion	100ml 0.9% NaCl over 30 mins using a low-protein binding 0.2 to 5 micrometre in-line or add-on filter	Every 21 days
2	1	Bevacizumab	15mg/kg	IV infusion	100ml 0.9% NaCl over 90 mins ^{b,c}	Every 21 days
^a Pembrolizumab is diluted to a final concentration ranging from 1-10mg/ml.						
^b Flush line with NaCl 0.9% pre and post bevacizumab dose as it should not be mixed with glucose solutions.						
^c The initial dose of bevacizumab should be delivered over 90 minutes as an intravenous infusion. If the first infusion is well tolerated, the second infusion may be administered over 60 minutes. If the 60-minute infusion is well tolerated, all subsequent infusions may be administered over 30 minutes. Alternatively, the unlicensed use of shorter infusion times ⁱⁱ is described in the NCCP Bevacizumab Rapid Infusion Rate Guidance here . It should not be administered as an intravenous push or bolus.						

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CARBOplatin dose:

The dose in mg of CARBOplatin to be administered is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Dose (mg)} = \text{target AUC (mg/ml x min)} \times (\text{GFR ml/min} + 25)$$

- **Measured GFR** (e.g. nuclear renogram) is preferred whenever feasible.
- **Estimation of GFR** may be performed using the Wright formula to estimate GFR or the Cockcroft and Gault formula to estimate creatinine clearance.
- The GFR used to calculate the AUC dosing should not exceed 125ml/min.
- For obese patients and those with a low serum creatinine for example due to low body weight or post-operative asthenia, estimation using formulae may not give accurate results; measured GFR is recommended.
 - Where obesity (body mass index [BMI] $\geq 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$) or overweight (BMI 25-29.9) is likely to lead to an overestimate of GFR and isotope GFR is not available the use of the adjusted ideal body weight in the Cockcroft and Gault formula may be considered.
 - Where serum creatinine is less than 63 micromol/L, the use of a creatinine value of 62 micromol/L or a steady pre-operative creatinine value may be considered.
- These comments do not substitute for the clinical judgement of a physician experienced in prescription of CARBOplatin.

WRIGHT FORMULA

There are two versions of the formula depending on how serum creatinine values are obtained, by the kinetic Jaffe method or the enzymatic method. The formula can be further adapted if covariant creatine kinase (CK) values are available (not shown).

1. *SCr measured using enzymatic assay.*

$$\text{GFR (ml/min)} = \frac{(6230 - 32.8 \times \text{Age}) \times \text{BSA} \times (1 - 0.23 \times \text{Sex})}{\text{SCr (micromol/min)}}$$

2. *SCr measured using Jaffe assay*

$$\text{GFR (ml/min)} = \frac{(6580 - 38.8 \times \text{Age}) \times \text{BSA} \times (1 - 0.168 \times \text{Sex})}{\text{SCr (micromol/min)}}$$

Key: Sex = 1 if female, 0 if male; Age in years; BSA= DuBois BSA

COCKCROFT-GAULT FORMULA

$$\text{GFR (ml/min)} = \frac{S \times (140 - \text{age in years}) \times \text{wt (kg)}}{\text{serum creatinine (micromol/L)}}$$

S= 1.04 for females

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ELIGIBILITY:

- Indications as above
- ECOG Status 0-1
- Adequate haematological, hepatic and renal function

CAUTION:

- History of serious autoimmune disease
- Bleeding/clotting disorders
- History of significant venous thromboembolism
- Surgical procedure/complications or an underlying condition that could lead to increased risk of fistulation or perforation
- Baseline neutrophil count $< 1.5 \times 10^9$ cells/L
- Prior radiation to the chest wall or pelvic area or other serious medical illness

EXCLUSIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to pembrolizumab, PACLitaxel, CARBOplatin, bevacizumab or any of the excipients
- Has received prior therapy with an anti-PD-1 or anti-PD-L1 antibody
- Unstable CNS metastases
- Any medical condition that requires immunosuppressive doses of systemic corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medication(s) (defined as $>10\text{mg}$ prednisolone/daily (or steroid equivalent, excluding inhaled or topical steroids))
- History of interstitial lung disease
- Any active clinically significant infection requiring therapy
- Pregnancy or lactation
- Hypersensitivity to Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) cell products or other recombinant human or humanised antibodies
- Severe hepatic impairment (PACLitaxel)
- Cerebrovascular disease (e.g. TIA, CVA or cerebral haemorrhage within 6 months prior to treatment)
- Cardiovascular disease e.g. MI within 6 months prior to treatment, poorly controlled arrhythmia, congestive cardiac failure \geq Class 2

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY:

- The treatment plan must be initiated by a Consultant Medical Oncologist

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TESTS:

Baseline tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile
- PD-L1 expression using a validated test method
- Isotope GFR measurement (preferred) or GFR / Cr Clearance estimation
- Glucose
- Thyroid function tests
- Virology Screen: Hepatitis B (HBsAg, HBcoreAb) and Hepatitis C
- Audiometry if clinically indicated
- Dipstick urinalysis for protein
- Blood pressure measurement
- Cardiac assessment including history, physical exam and baseline ECG.
 - ECHO should be considered in patients who have a history of cardiovascular disease, prior treatment with an anthracycline or other cardiotoxic drug or prior chest wall radiation
- INR if clinically indicated*

*(For patients on warfarin, weekly INR until stable warfarin dose established, then INR prior to each cycle.)

Regular tests:

- FBC, renal and liver profile prior to each cycle
- Glucose prior to each cycle
- Thyroid function tests every 3 to 6 weeks
- Dipstick urinalysis for protein
- Blood pressure (including post treatment)
- INR if clinically indicated*

*(For patients on warfarin, weekly INR until stable warfarin dose established, then INR prior to each cycle.)

Disease monitoring:

Disease monitoring should be in line with the patient’s treatment plan and any other test/s as directed by the supervising Consultant.

DOSE MODIFICATIONS:

- Dose reduction is not recommended for pembrolizumab.
- Management of immune-related adverse reactions may require withholding of a dose or permanent discontinuation of pembrolizumab therapy and institution of systemic high-dose corticosteroid (See Table 3).
 - Bevacizumab dose reduction for adverse events is not recommended (SmPC). If indicated,
 - bevacizumab therapy should either be permanently discontinued or temporarily suspended
 - until toxicity resolves (Table 4 and Table 5).

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- Any dose modification should be discussed with a Consultant.

Haematological:

Table 1: Dose modification of PACLitaxel and CARBOplatin in haematological toxicity

ANC (x 10 ⁹ /L) (pre-treatment blood test)	
≥1.0 to <1.5	Treatment should continue if patient is clinically well, Consultant decision
0.5 to 1.0	Delay treatment until recovery
< 0.5 and/ or febrile neutropenia	Delay treatment until recovery and consider reducing PACLitaxel and CARBOplatin by 25% for subsequent cycles
Platelets (x 10 ⁹ /L) (pre-treatment blood test)	
≥75 to <100	Treatment should continue if patient is clinically well, Consultant decision
50 to 75	Delay treatment until recovery
<50	Delay treatment until recovery and consider reducing PACLitaxel and CARBOplatin by 25% for subsequent cycles

Renal and Hepatic Impairment:

Table 2: Recommended dose modification for pembrolizumab, PACLitaxel, CARBOplatin and bevacizumab in renal and hepatic impairment^a

Drug	Renal Impairment		Hepatic Impairment			
Pembrolizumab	Mild/Moderate	No dose adjustment required	Mild		No dose adjustment required	
	Severe	Has not been studied	Moderate/Severe		Has not been studied	
CARBOplatin	See note below ^b		No dose modification required			
PACLitaxel	No dose modification required		ALT		Total bilirubin	Dose of PACLitaxel
			< 10 x ULN	and	≤ 1.25 x ULN	175mg/m ²
			< 10 x ULN	and	1.26-2 x ULN	135mg/m ²
			< 10 x ULN	and	2.01-5 x ULN	90mg/m ²
		≥ 10 x ULN	and/or	> 5 x ULN	Not recommended	
Bevacizumab	No studies have been performed in patients with renal impairment.		No studies have been performed in patients with hepatic impairment.			

^aSee Table 3 for management of pembrolizumab in treatment related hepatitis

^bRenal dysfunction and CARBOplatin:

- Patients with creatinine clearance values of < 60ml/min are at greater risk of developing myelosuppression.
- If GFR between 20 to ≤ 30ml/min, CARBOplatin should be administered with extreme caution.
- In case of GFR ≤ 20ml/min CARBOplatin should not be administered at all.
- If Cockcroft & Gault or Wright formulas are used, the dose should be calculated as required per cycle based on a serum creatinine obtained within 48 hrs of drug administration.

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- If isotope GFR is used, the dose should remain the same provided the serum creatinine is $\leq 110\%$ of its value at the time of the isotope measurement. If the serum creatinine is higher than this, consideration should be given to remeasuring the GFR or to estimating it using Cockcroft & Gault or Wright formulae.

Management of adverse events:

Table 3: Recommended treatment modifications for pembrolizumab

Immune-related adverse reactions	Severity (NCI-CTCAE v.4 grading)	Treatment modification
Pneumonitis	Grade 2	Withhold*
	Grade 3 or 4, or recurrent Grade 2	Permanently discontinue
Colitis	Grade 2 or 3	Withhold*
	Grade 4 or recurrent Grade 3	Permanently discontinue
Nephritis	Grade 2 with creatinine > 1.5 to ≤ 3 times upper limit of normal (ULN)	Withhold*
	Grade ≥ 3 with creatinine > 3 times ULN	Permanently discontinue
Endocrinopathies	Symptomatic hypophysitis	Withhold*
	Type 1 diabetes associated with Grade ≥ 3 hyperglycaemia (glucose > 250 mg/dL or > 13.9 mmol/L) or associated with ketoacidosis	For patients with Grade 3 or Grade 4 endocrinopathy that improved to Grade 2 or lower and is controlled with hormone replacement, if indicated, continuation of pembrolizumab may be considered after corticosteroid taper, if needed. Otherwise treatment should be discontinued.
	Hyperthyroidism Grade ≥ 3	
	Hypothyroidism	Hypothyroidism may be managed with replacement therapy without treatment interruption.
Hepatitis	Grade 2 with aspartate aminotransferase (AST) or alanine aminotransferase (ALT) > 3 to 5 times ULN or total bilirubin > 1.5 to 3 times ULN	Withhold*
	Grade ≥ 3 with AST or ALT > 5 times ULN or total bilirubin > 3 times ULN	Permanently discontinue
	In case of liver metastasis with baseline Grade 2 elevation of AST or ALT, hepatitis with AST or ALT increases $\geq 50\%$ and lasts ≥ 1 week	
Skin reactions	Grade 3 or suspected Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) or toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN)	Withhold*
	Grade 4 or confirmed SJS or TEN	Permanently discontinue
Other immune-related adverse reactions**	Based on severity and type of reaction (grade 2 or Grade 3)	Withhold*
	Grade 3 or 4 myocarditis Grade 3 or 4 encephalitis Grade 3 or 4 Guillain-Barre syndrome Grade 4 or recurrent Grade 3	Permanently discontinue

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Infusion-related reactions	Grade 3 or 4	Permanently discontinue
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* Until adverse reactions recover to Grade 0-1. If treatment related toxicity does not resolve to Grade 0-1 within 12 weeks after last dose of pembrolizumab or if corticosteroid dosing cannot be reduced to $\leq 10\text{mg}$ prednisone or equivalent per day within 12 weeks, pembrolizumab should be permanently discontinued

**Pembrolizumab should be permanently discontinued for Grade 4 or recurrent Grade 3 immune-related adverse reactions, unless otherwise specified in Table 3.

Table 4: Recommended dose modification for PAclitaxel, CARBOplatin and bevacizumab in adverse events

Adverse Reactions	Dose Modification
Peripheral Neuropathy	
Grade ≤ 2 which is present at the start of the next cycle	Reduce PAclitaxel by 25%; if persistent, reduce PAclitaxel by 50%
Grade ≥ 3	Omit PAclitaxel dose
Mucositis and stomatitis	
Grade 2	Delay treatment until toxicity has resolved to Grade 1 or less and reduce doses for subsequent cycles as follows:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st occurrence 2nd occurrence 3rd occurrence 4th occurrence 	No dose reduction Reduce PAclitaxel and CARBOplatin by 25% Reduce PAclitaxel and CARBOplatin by 50% Omit PAclitaxel and CARBOplatin
Grade 3 or Grade 4	Delay treatment until toxicity has resolved to Grade 1 or less and reduce doses for subsequent cycles as follows:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st occurrence 2nd occurrence 	Reduce PAclitaxel and CARBOplatin by 50% Omit PAclitaxel and CARBOplatin
Hypertension	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncontrolled * or symptomatic hypertension on Day 1 Grade 2-3 hypertension Grade 4 hypertension or persisting grade 3 hypertension 	Withhold bevacizumab treatment and start antihypertensive therapy or adjust pre-existing medication Initiate antihypertensive therapy and consider interruption of bevacizumab until controlled Discontinue bevacizumab
Grade 4 Proteinuria	Discontinue bevacizumab
Tracheoesophageal (TE) fistula or any Grade 4 fistula	Discontinue bevacizumab
Grade 4 Thromboembolic events	Discontinue bevacizumab
Haemorrhagic event \geq Grade 3	Discontinue bevacizumab
Gastrointestinal Perforation	Discontinue bevacizumab
*Uncontrolled hypertension for initiating bevacizumab is defined as sustained BP $>150/100\text{mmHg}$ while receiving anti-hypertensive medication	

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Table 5: Dose modifications of bevacizumab for proteinuria

Degree of proteinuria	Action
Neg or 1+ dipstick or less than 1 g/L laboratory urinalysis for protein	Administer bevacizumab dose as scheduled
2+ or 3+ dipstick or greater than or equal to 1 g/L laboratory urinalysis for protein	Administer bevacizumab dose as scheduled. Collect 24-hour urine for determination of total protein within 3 days before the next scheduled bevacizumab administration. Adjust bevacizumab treatment based on the table below
If urine dipstick shows 4+ at baseline or during treatment	Withhold bevacizumab and proceed with 24 hour urine collection
24-hour urine total protein (g/24hr)	Action
less than or equal to 2	Proceed
greater than 2 to 4	Hold dose and recheck 24 hour urine every 2 weeks, resume therapy when less than or equal to 2g/24hour
greater than 4	Discontinue Therapy

SUPPORTIVE CARE:

EMETOGENIC POTENTIAL:

Pembrolizumab:	Minimal (Refer to local policy)
CARBOplatin:	High (Refer to local policy)
PACLitaxel:	Low (Refer to local policy)
Bevacizumab:	Minimal (Refer to local policy)

PREMEDICATIONS:

- All patients must be premedicated with corticosteroids, antihistamines, and H₂ antagonists prior to first dose of PACLitaxel treatment.
- The H₂ antagonist, famotidine, can potentially be omitted from the pre-medication requirements for PACLitaxel but the risk of hypersensitivity with this approach is unknown.
 - Caution is advised particularly for patients receiving PACLitaxel every 3 weeks. It is recommended that if famotidine is omitted that patients are monitored closely for any signs of hypersensitivity. Any hypersensitivity should be managed as per local policy.
 - Where a patient experiences hypersensitivity, consider the use of alternative H₂ antagonists (**Refer to local policy**).
- Table 6 outlines suggested premedications prior to treatment with PACLitaxel

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Table 6: Suggested premedications prior to treatment with PACLitaxel

Drug	Dose	Administration prior to PACLitaxel
Dexamethasone	20mg oral or IV ^{a,b}	For oral administration: approximately 6 and 12 hours or for IV administration: 30 minutes
Chlorphenamine	10mg IV	30 minutes
Famotidine ^c	20mg IV	30 minutes
^a Dose of dexamethasone may be reduced or omitted in the absence of hypersensitivity reaction according to consultant guidance.		
^b If aprepitant is added to the anti-emetic regimen, consideration should be given to reducing the dose of dexamethasone to 12mg on the day of treatment.		
^c Dose of famotidine may be omitted in the absence of hypersensitivity reaction according to consultant guidance.		

OTHER SUPPORTIVE CARE:

- Myalgias and arthralgias may occur with PACLitaxel. Analgesic cover should be considered.
- Anti-diarrhoeal treatment may be required with Bevacizumab (**Refer to local policy**).

ADVERSE EFFECTS / REGIMEN SPECIFIC COMPLICATIONS:

The adverse effects listed are not exhaustive. Please refer to the relevant Summary of Product Characteristics for full details.

Pembrolizumab

- In view of the serious and potentially life-threatening side effects of pembrolizumab, it is mandatory that patients be carefully assessed prior to commencing on treatment. Efficacy and safety data from patients ≥ 75 years are limited. For patients ≥ 75 years, pembrolizumab combination therapy should be used with caution after careful consideration of the potential benefit/risk on an individual basis. Patients have to be monitored regularly for hepatic, pulmonary, gastrointestinal toxicity and for endocrinopathies while on treatment.
- **Immune-related adverse reactions:** Most immune-related adverse reactions occurring during treatment with pembrolizumab were reversible and managed with interruptions of pembrolizumab, administration of corticosteroids or alternative immunosuppressants and/or supportive care. Immune-related adverse reactions have also occurred after the last dose of pembrolizumab. Immune-related adverse reactions affecting more than one body system can occur simultaneously. For suspected immune-related adverse reactions, adequate evaluation to confirm aetiology or exclude other causes should be ensured. Based on the severity of the adverse reaction, pembrolizumab should be withheld and corticosteroids administered. Upon improvement to Grade ≤ 1 , corticosteroid taper should be initiated and continued over at least 1 month. Based on limited data from clinical studies in patients whose immune-related adverse reactions could not be controlled with corticosteroid use, administration of other systemic immunosuppressants can be considered. Pembrolizumab may be restarted within 12 weeks after last dose of pembrolizumab if the adverse reaction remains at Grade ≤ 1 and corticosteroid dose has been reduced to ≤ 10 mg prednisone or equivalent per day. Pembrolizumab must be permanently discontinued for any Grade 3 immune-related adverse reaction that recurs and for any Grade 4 immune-related adverse reaction toxicity, except for endocrinopathies that are controlled with replacement hormones.

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- Immune-related pneumonitis:** Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of pneumonitis. Suspected pneumonitis should be confirmed with radiographic imaging and other causes excluded. Corticosteroids should be administered for Grade ≥ 2 events (initial dose of 1-2 mg/kg/day prednisone or equivalent followed by a taper); pembrolizumab should be withheld for Grade 2 pneumonitis, and permanently discontinued for Grade 3, Grade 4 or recurrent Grade 2 pneumonitis.
- Immune-related colitis:** Colitis has been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab. Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of colitis, and other causes excluded. Corticosteroids should be administered for Grade ≥ 2 events (initial dose of 1-2 mg/kg/day prednisone or equivalent followed by a taper); pembrolizumab should be withheld for Grade 2 or Grade 3 colitis, and permanently discontinued for Grade 4 colitis. The potential risk of gastrointestinal perforation should be taken into consideration.
- Immune-related hepatitis:** Hepatitis has been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab. Patients should be monitored for changes in liver function (at the start of treatment, periodically during treatment and as indicated based on clinical evaluation) and symptoms of hepatitis, and other causes excluded. Corticosteroids should be administered (initial dose of 0.5-1 mg/kg/day (for Grade 2 events) and 1-2 mg/kg/day (for Grade ≥ 3 events) prednisone or equivalent followed by a taper) and, based on severity of liver enzyme elevations, pembrolizumab should be withheld or discontinued.
- Immune-related nephritis:** Nephritis has been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab. Patients should be monitored for changes in renal function, and other causes of renal dysfunction excluded. Corticosteroids should be administered for Grade ≥ 2 events (initial dose of 1-2 mg/kg/day prednisone or equivalent followed by a taper) and, based on severity of creatinine elevations, pembrolizumab should be withheld for Grade 2, and permanently discontinued for Grade 3 or Grade 4 nephritis.
- Immune-related endocrinopathies:** Severe endocrinopathies, including hypophysitis, type 1 diabetes mellitus, diabetic ketoacidosis, hypothyroidism, and hyperthyroidism have been observed with pembrolizumab treatment. Long-term hormone replacement therapy may be necessary in cases of immune-related endocrinopathies.

Hypophysitis has been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab. Patients should be monitored for signs and symptoms of hypophysitis (including hypopituitarism and secondary adrenal insufficiency) and other causes excluded. Corticosteroids to treat secondary adrenal insufficiency and other hormone replacement should be administered as clinically indicated, and pembrolizumab should be withheld for symptomatic hypophysitis until the event is controlled with hormone replacement. Continuation of pembrolizumab may be considered, after corticosteroid taper, if needed. Pituitary function and hormone levels should be monitored to ensure appropriate hormone replacement.

Type 1 diabetes mellitus, including diabetic ketoacidosis, has been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab. Patients should be monitored for hyperglycaemia or other signs and symptoms of diabetes. Insulin should be administered for type 1 diabetes, and pembrolizumab should be withheld in cases of Grade 3 hyperglycaemia until metabolic control is achieved. Thyroid disorders, including hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism and thyroiditis, have been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab and can occur at any time during treatment; therefore, patients should be monitored for changes in thyroid function (at the start of treatment, periodically during treatment and as indicated based on clinical evaluation) and clinical signs and symptoms of thyroid disorders. Hypothyroidism may be managed with replacement therapy without treatment interruption and without corticosteroids. Hyperthyroidism may be managed symptomatically. Pembrolizumab should be withheld for Grade ≥ 3 until recovery to Grade ≤ 1 hyperthyroidism. For patients with Grade 3 or Grade 4 hyperthyroidism that improved to Grade 2 or lower, continuation of pembrolizumab may be

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considered, after corticosteroid taper, if needed. Thyroid function and hormone levels should be monitored to ensure appropriate hormone replacement.

- **Immune-related skin adverse reactions:** Immune-related severe skin reactions have been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab. Patients should be monitored for suspected severe skin reactions and other causes should be excluded. Based on the severity of the adverse reaction, pembrolizumab should be withheld or permanently discontinued, and corticosteroids should be administered. Cases of Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), some with fatal outcome, have been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab). For signs or symptoms of SJS or TEN, pembrolizumab should be withheld and the patient should be referred to a specialised unit for assessment and treatment. If SJS or TEN is confirmed, pembrolizumab should be permanently discontinued. Caution should be used when considering the use of pembrolizumab in a patient who has previously experienced a severe or life-threatening skin adverse reaction on prior treatment with other immune stimulatory anticancer agents.
- **Other immune-related adverse reactions:** The following additional clinically significant, immune-related adverse reactions have been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab: uveitis, arthritis, myositis, pancreatitis, Guillain-Barré syndrome, myasthenic syndrome, haemolytic anaemia, sarcoidosis and encephalitis. Based on the severity of the adverse reaction, pembrolizumab should be withheld and corticosteroids administered. Pembrolizumab may be restarted within 12 weeks after last dose of pembrolizumab if the adverse reaction remains at Grade ≤ 1 and corticosteroid dose has been reduced to ≤ 10 mg prednisone or equivalent per day.
- **Pembrolizumab must be permanently discontinued for any Grade 3 immune related adverse reaction that recurs and for any Grade 4 immune related adverse reaction toxicity.**
- **Infusion-related reactions:** Severe infusion-related reactions have been reported in patients receiving pembrolizumab. For severe infusion reactions, infusion should be stopped and pembrolizumab permanently discontinued. Patients with mild or moderate infusion reaction may continue to receive pembrolizumab with close monitoring; premedication with antipyretic and antihistamine may be considered.

CARBOplatin

- **Hypersensitivity:** Reactions to CARBOplatin may develop in patients who have been previously exposed to platinum therapy. However allergic reactions have been observed upon initial exposure to CARBOplatin.
- **Neurotoxicity and ototoxicity.** Ototoxicity and sensory neural damage should be assessed by history prior to each cycle.
- **Renal toxicity:** The incidence and severity of nephrotoxicity may increase in patients who have impaired kidney function before CARBOplatin treatment.

PACLitaxel

- **Hypersensitivity:** Severe hypersensitivity reactions characterised by dyspnoea and hypotension requiring treatment, angioedema and generalised urticaria have occurred in $\leq 1\%$ of patients receiving PACLitaxel after adequate premedication. In the case of severe hypersensitivity reactions, PACLitaxel infusion should be discontinued immediately, symptomatic therapy should be initiated and the patient should not be re-challenged with the drug.
- **Extravasation:** PACLitaxel causes pain and tissue necrosis if extravasated. (Refer to local policy).

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- **Neutropenia:** This is the dose limiting toxicity. Fever or other evidence of infection must be assessed promptly and treated appropriately. PACLitaxel should be administered when the neutrophil count is $> 1.5 \times 10^9$ cells/L.
- **Peripheral neuropathy:** Occurs frequently but the development of severe symptoms is rare. In severe cases, a dose reduction of 20% is recommended for all subsequent courses of PACLitaxel.
- **Arthralgia/myalgia:** May be severe in some patients; however, there is no consistent correlation between cumulative dose and infusion duration of PACLitaxel and frequency or severity of the arthralgia/myalgia. Symptoms are usually transient, occurring within 2 or 3 days after PACLitaxel administration, and resolving within days. Dose reducing PACLitaxel may lessen the severity of arthralgias/myalgias; however, there is no data on efficacy of reduced doses in a curative setting. Dose reduction should be considered only if symptom severity precludes continuing PACLitaxel.
- **Cardiac conduction abnormalities:** If patients develop significant conduction abnormalities during PACLitaxel administration, appropriate therapy should be administered and continuous cardiac monitoring should be performed during subsequent therapy with PACLitaxel. Hypotension, hypertension, and bradycardia have been observed during PACLitaxel administration; patients are usually asymptomatic and generally do not require treatment. Frequent vital sign monitoring, particularly during the first hour of PACLitaxel infusion, is recommended.
- **Hepatic Dysfunction:** Patients with hepatic impairment may be at increased risk of toxicity, particularly grade 3-4 myelosuppression.

Bevacizumab

- **Gastrointestinal perforations:** Patients may be at an increased risk for the development of gastrointestinal perforation and gall bladder perforation when treated with bevacizumab. Intra-abdominal inflammatory process may be a risk factor for gastrointestinal perforations in patients with metastatic carcinoma of the colon or rectum, therefore, caution should be exercised when treating these patients. Therapy should be permanently discontinued in patients who develop gastrointestinal perforation.
- **Wound healing complications:** Bevacizumab may adversely affect the wound healing process. Therapy should not be initiated for at least 28 days following major surgery or until the surgical wound is fully healed. In patients who experienced wound healing complications during therapy, treatment should be withheld until the wound is fully healed. Therapy should be withheld for major elective surgery for 28 days and for 7 days for minor surgery or as directed by the prescribing Consultant. Necrotising fasciitis, including fatal cases, has rarely been reported in patients treated with bevacizumab. This condition is usually secondary to wound healing complications, gastrointestinal perforation or fistula formation. Bevacizumab therapy should be discontinued in patients who develop necrotising fasciitis, and appropriate treatment should be promptly initiated.
- **Hypertension:** An increased incidence of hypertension has been observed in patients treated with bevacizumab. Clinical safety data suggest that the incidence of hypertension is likely to be dose-dependent.
 - Pre-existing hypertension should be adequately controlled before starting bevacizumab treatment. Bevacizumab may be continued in conjunction with standard anti-hypertensive therapy at physician's discretion.
 - Patients should have their blood pressure measured before each dose or more frequently if hypertension develops/worsens.

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- Any patient who develops hypertension (>150/100 mmHg) should be treated with anti-hypertensive medications, or have their pre-existing medications adjusted. Patients developing severe hypertension (>200/110 mm Hg) or any symptomatic hypertension that is not controlled with medication should have bevacizumab permanently discontinued.
- **Posterior Reversible Encephalopathy Syndrome (PRES):** There have been rare reports of bevacizumab-treated patients developing signs and symptoms that are consistent with PRES, a rare neurologic disorder, which can present with the following signs and symptoms among others: seizures, headache, altered mental status, visual disturbance, or cortical blindness, with or without associated hypertension. A diagnosis of PRES requires confirmation by brain imaging, preferably magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). In patients developing PRES, treatment of specific symptoms including control of hypertension is recommended along with discontinuation of bevacizumab. The safety of reinitiating therapy in patients previously experiencing PRES is not known.
- **Proteinuria:** Patients with a history of hypertension may be at increased risk for the development of proteinuria.
- **Thromboembolism:** Patients receiving bevacizumab plus chemotherapy, with a history of arterial thromboembolism or age > 65 years have an increased risk of developing arterial thromboembolic reactions during therapy. Caution should be taken when treating these patients. Therapy should be permanently discontinued in patients who develop arterial thromboembolic reactions. Patients may be at risk of developing venous thromboembolic reactions, including pulmonary embolism under bevacizumab treatment. Bevacizumab should be discontinued in patients with life-threatening (Grade 4) thromboembolic reactions, including pulmonary embolism. Patients with thromboembolic reactions ≤ Grade 3 need to be closely monitored.
- **Haemorrhage:** Patients treated with bevacizumab have an increased risk of haemorrhage, especially tumour associated haemorrhage and minor mucocutaneous haemorrhage. Bevacizumab should be used with caution in patients at risk of bleeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

- The use of systemic corticosteroids or immunosuppressants before starting pembrolizumab should be avoided because of their potential interference with the pharmacodynamic activity and efficacy of pembrolizumab. However, systemic corticosteroids or other immunosuppressants can be used after starting pembrolizumab to treat immune-related adverse reactions.
- Avoid concurrent use of CARBOplatin with nephrotoxic drugs (e.g. aminoglycosides, furosemide, NSAIDS) due to additive nephrotoxicity. If necessary monitor renal function closely.
- Avoid concurrent use of CARBOplatin with ototoxic drugs (e.g. aminoglycosides, furosemide, NSAIDS). When necessary perform regular audiometric testing.
- Risk of drug interactions causing increased concentrations of PACLitaxel with CYP3A inhibitors. Patients should also be counselled with regard to consumption of grapefruit juice.
- Risk of drug interactions causing decreased concentrations of PACLitaxel with CYP3A inducers.
- Current drug interaction databases should be consulted for more information.

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COMPANY SUPPORT RESOURCES/Useful Links:

Please note that this is for information only and does not constitute endorsement by the NCCP

Pembrolizumab Patient Guide

<https://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/196f9071-00a4-4498-9dcb-e29ef7b35e55.pdf>

Pembrolizumab Patient Alert Card

<https://www.hpra.ie/img/uploaded/swedocuments/c0984994-f8e8-4b10-95dd-7be12ff6c6f9.pdf>

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Version	Date	Amendment	Approved By
1	17/04/2023		Prof Maccon Keane

Comments and feedback welcome at oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie.

ⁱ Contact oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie for clarification.

ⁱⁱThe rapid infusion is an unlicensed means of administration of bevacizumab for the indications described above, in Ireland. Patients should be informed of this and consented to treatment in line with the hospital’s policy on the use of unlicensed medication and unlicensed or “off label” indications. Prescribers should be fully aware of their responsibility in communicating any relevant information to the patient and also ensuring that the unlicensed or “off label” means of administration has been acknowledged by the hospital’s Drugs and Therapeutics Committee, or equivalent, in line with hospital policy.

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