

## PEMBROLIZUMAB

*pembro-lih-zoo-mab*

### What does it do?

*Pembrolizumab* is used to treat some cancers, such as certain types of melanoma. It makes your immune system attack the cancer cells.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have had a transplant (including a cornea transplant).
- If there is a chance you could get pregnant, use reliable contraception while taking *pembrolizumab* and for up to 4 months after stopping. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- *Pembrolizumab* affects your immune system. Tell your doctor if you have had any vaccines in the last 2 months. Check with your doctor before having any vaccines while using it, and for up to 6 months after stopping.

### How is it given?

*Pembrolizumab* is given as an infusion into a vein.

### What if you forget a dose?

*Pembrolizumab* will be given to you by a health professional. If you are unable to attend an appointment, contact your health professional as soon as possible.

### Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

### What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects   | Recommended action              |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Reaction during the infusion including: fever, chills, aches and pains<br>Skin rash, skin peeling or blisters<br>Short of breath, persistent dry cough<br>Symptoms of heart inflammation including: fluttering, pounding or pain in your chest, shortness of breath<br>Severe stomach pain, nausea | Tell your doctor immediately    |
| Feeling tired, unexplained weight gain or loss, feeling hotter or colder than normal (may be a thyroid problem)<br>Tingling or numbness<br>Confusion, drowsiness or weakness<br>Eye pain, changes in vision<br>Persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain<br>Peeing more often, feeling thirsty          | Tell your doctor                |
| Pale skin patches, itching<br>Stomach upset  | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

### Other information:

- Some side effects can happen after your treatment has finished. Discuss this with your doctor.
- It is important to tell anyone who gives you medical or dental treatment that you are taking *pembrolizumab*.