



# MC-Rx

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# Drug Update

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# Drug Information Updates

## New Keytruda Indication

01/09/2020

Keytruda® (pembrolizumab - Merck) was FDA approved to treat high-risk, non-muscle invasive bladder cancer (NMIBC) with carcinoma in situ (CIS). NMIBC affects about three-fourths of the 80,000 patients newly diagnosed with bladder cancer each year in the U.S. Initial treatment for it usually involves surgical removal of tumors and treatment with intravesicular chemotherapy or a vaccine, Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG). As many as one-half of NMIBC tumors will return within around one year after treatment, however; and eventually some cases no longer respond to BCG. Keytruda can be used by itself for the 30% to 40% of patient who have bladder tumors that are BCG resistant and who cannot or choose not to have cystectomies. It will be given as 200mg doses in 30-minute long IV infusions once every three weeks for 24 months or until the cancer worsens or the patient cannot tolerate the drug's side effects.

*Formulary Status:* Keytruda is a preferred brand specialty product on our National Formulary

## Indication Expanded for Mycamine

01/20/2020

Astellas Pharma announced that the FDA had approved Mycamine® (micafungin for injection) to treat invasive *Candida* infections for children under four months old. It already is indicated for all older patients. *Candida* is a yeast that causes systemic (candidiasis) or blood (candidemia) infections for about 25,000 patients per year. Although it is not common among very young babies, candidiasis results in death for about one-fifth of infants who contract it. For the new indication, Mycamine will be administered at 4mg/kg once a day by IV infusion and should not be mixed with any other medications and it should not be given to babies who have candidemia with meningoencephalitis and/or ocular dissemination.

*Formulary Status:* Mycamine is deferred to a medical benefit and not covered under our pharmacy benefit

## Novo Nordisk Insulin

12/19/2019

At the beginning of 2020, Novo Nordisk initiated three programs to help patients better afford insulin. In addition to half-priced authorized generics to Novolog® (insulin aspart) and Novolog® Mix 70/30 (insulin aspart protamine/insulin aspart), Novo Nordisk is also offering a free once-only insulin fill for qualifying patients who need insulin immediately to avoid rationing or missing doses. The third component is a discount card that patients can register to receive. The press release is available at <https://www.novonordisk-us.com/media/news-releases.html?122978>

*Formulary Status:* All Novo Nordisk insulins Conjupri are preferred brand products on our National Formulary

## IMPENDING FDA REVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR THIS WEEK:

None pending

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

More information will be provided as it becomes available. Visit [FDA.gov](http://FDA.gov) for more information.