

Specialist Advisory Committees

Objective advice to Pharmac

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Cancer Treatments Advisory Committee Provisional recommendations 12 September 2025

Pharmac is piloting a new approach which will allow people to understand the advice we get, within 30 business days of advisory committee meetings.

[More information about provisional recommendations is on Pharmac's website](#)

We are releasing provisional recommendations only at this time, which share the high-level outcome of the advice recommendation. Further information, which will explain the recommendation, will be shared when the full meeting record is completed. Applicants / suppliers are given the opportunity to withhold the provisional recommendation until more information is available.

Summary of Provisional Recommendations

Pharmaceutical and Indication	Provisional Recommendation
Atezolizumab for the adjuvant treatment of PD-L1 positive stage II-IIIa non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), within the context of treatment of malignancy, subject to Special Authority criteria	No change to previous recommendation to decline
Nivolumab for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic oesophageal, gastro-oesophageal junction, or gastric cancer, within the context of treatment of malignancy, subject to Special Authority criteria	Low Priority
Pembrolizumab for the treatment of unresectable or metastatic oesophageal, gastro-oesophageal junction, or gastric cancer, within the context of treatment of malignancy, subject to Special Authority criteria	*Withheld
Nivolumab for the treatment of microsatellite instability high (MSI-H) unresectable or metastatic oesophageal, gastro-oesophageal junction, or gastric cancer, within the context of treatment of malignancy, subject to Special Authority criteria	High Priority
Pembrolizumab for the treatment of microsatellite instability high (MSI-H) unresectable or metastatic oesophageal, gastro-oesophageal junction, or gastric cancer, within the context of treatment of malignancy, subject to Special Authority criteria	*Withheld
Nivolumab in combination with ipilimumab for the neoadjuvant treatment of resectable cutaneous melanoma, followed by adjuvant nivolumab treatment, within the context of treatment of malignancy, subject to Special Authority criteria	High Priority
Nivolumab for the treatment of resected melanoma (Stage IIIB, IIIC, IIID or Stage IV) adjuvant to complete surgical resection, within the context of treatment of malignancy, subject to Special Authority criteria	*Cost neutral to pembrolizumab

*Withheld provisional recommendation – the applicant / supplier has requested the recommendation not be released until full record is available.

*Cost Neutral – The Committee has recommended this application be funded if the cost is neutral to the provision of the currently funded drug including health system costs.

[More information about the agenda items considered at the September 2025 Cancer Treatments Advisory Committee meeting can be found on the Pharmac website](#)

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