The most common adverse effects of avelumab in clinical trials were fatigue (50%), musculoskeletal pain (32%), diarrhea (23%), nausea (22%), rash (22%), and infusion-site reactions (22%). Serious treatment–related adverse events occurred in 6% of patients. Grade 3 or 4 adverse events (lymphopenia, elevation of creatine kinase, transaminase increases) occurred in 5% of patients. As with PD-1 inhibitors, immune-mediated adverse effects including pneumonitis, colitis, nephritis, hepatitis, and endocrinopathies (hypothyroidism, adrenal insufficiency, type 1 diabetes) can occur.

The recommended dosage of Bavencio is 10 mg/kg infused IV over 60 minutes every 2 weeks. The cost of one 10-mL vial containing 200 mg of the drug is $1504; three months’ treatment for a 60-kg patient would cost $27,072.4

4. Approximate WAC. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer’s published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. June 5, 2017. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved.  ©2017. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.