

Eplerenone doubles for the second month

Eplerenone 25mg tablets saw their average UK trade price more than double in November, having previously experienced the same rise in October, according to the latest figures provided by WaveData.

The category M cardiovascular treatment saw its average price rise by 111% to £33.06 (US\$44.25) in November, despite the lowest available offer remaining unchanged at £4.10 (see Figure 1). In October, the presentation had experienced an identical average price rise of 111% to £15.65 (**Generics bulletin**, 17 November 2017, page 10).

Among the 'biggest risers' seen in Figure 2, glimepiride tablets dominated, with 30-count packs of four strengths – 1mg, 2mg, 3mg and 4mg – accounting for the top four average price rises seen in November. The highest strength saw the steepest rise of 336% to £5.58, while the lowest strength experienced the slightest increase of the four presentations with a rise of 178% to £2.20. The cheapest available

offers for every strength except the 1mg tablets were unchanged.

The rises come as the UK's Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) continues to put pressure on the country's Department of Health (DoH) to agree to almost 100 price concessions to adjust reimbursement prices for November (see page xx).

As Figure 3 shows, some declines were also seen in November. Naproxen 250mg tablets in 28-count packs saw their average price more than halve to £0.49 despite the cheapest available offer slipping by just 3% to £0.33. And amlodipine 10mg tablets in the same pack size experienced an average drop of three-tenths to £1.86, while the lowest price was almost unmoved at £1.29.

Meanwhile, atorvastatin and lansoprazole continued to feature highly among our 'fast movers' representing the products with the highest number of offers in the marketplace (see Figure 4).

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.12	+26	£4.44	+34
Benzydamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.69	±0	£5.35	-1
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£35.99	-4	£39.74	-6
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.81	-6	£1.32	+2
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.15	±0	£4.09	+4
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.40	+1	£6.82	+2
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.96	-2	£2.66	-12
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£2.95	+18	£6.70	-17
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£2.30	-21	£3.39	-3
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£4.10	±0	£33.06	+111
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.37	±0	£0.81	-2
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£6.60	+1	£8.00	-1
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.59	+7	£0.95	-5
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.73	±0	£1.12	±0
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£13.50	-14	£19.02	-7
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£4.49	-10	£9.99	-17
Olmesartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.89	±0	£1.36	-20
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£3.25	-17	£7.62	-16
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£1.55	-33	£2.81	-4
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£1.40	-5	£6.52	-6
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£7.49	+14	£11.65	+5
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£21.50	±0	£30.55	+1
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.24	±0	£0.43	+8
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.88	-4	£1.55	+4
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£5.50	-8	£16.44	-9

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 October 2017 and 1-30 November 2017 of UK trade prices of the most recently-launched generics listed in category M of the Drug Tariff of pharmacy-reimbursement prices. Averages calculated from at least 17 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 October 2017 and 1-30 November 2017. Averages calculated from at least 16 data points. Figure 4 (bottom right): Ranking of fastest-moving products subject to the most price offers made to independent UK pharmacists (one strength per ingredient; offers recorded by 30 November). Data for Figures 2, 3 and 4 from a basket of about 750 commonly-dispensed generics. Recently-launched products in Figure 1 excluded from Figures 2 and 3 (Source – WaveData).

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.59	±0	£5.58	+336
Glimepiride tabs 3mg 30	£0.52	±0	£4.28	+320
Glimepiride tabs 2mg 30	£0.39	±0	£3.07	+234
Glimepiride tabs 1mg 30	£0.39	+77	£2.20	+178
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.34	±0	£4.76	+162
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.94	+6	£2.47	+79

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Naproxen tabs 250mg 28	£0.33	-3	£0.49	-53
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£1.29	-1	£1.86	-30
Olanzapine O/d tabs 20mg 28	£6.45	+17	£31.06	-28
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£1.20	-8	£1.75	-27
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£6.20	-43	£13.66	-26
Olanzapine O/d tabs 15mg 28	£5.75	+64	£22.78	-25

FAST MOVERS			
Price offers as at 30 November 2017			
Product/Strength/Pack size	September	October	November
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	146	100	115
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	129	111	114
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	131	97	110
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	119	98	106
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	113	127	104
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	127	116	103
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	102	99	102
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	149	103	101
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	82	96	95
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	93	91	92

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