

October rises prompt concessions in the UK

Steep price rises for several different generics prompted the UK's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) to grant concessions for 25 molecules across 45 separate presentations in October.

According to the latest figures from WaveData, ondansetron 4mg tablets in 30-count packs saw their average price increase by 815% to £17.66 (US\$23.17) in October (see Figure 2). Although the packs of 30 tablets were not included in the list of DHSC concessions published by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), 10-tablet packs were granted a concession price of £16.59.

Furosemide 40mg in 28-count packs saw a 270% average leap to £0.74, prompting a concession of £2.49, although the 20mg presentation that experienced a 260% jump to £0.72 did not feature on the PSNC list. Packs of 28 naproxen 500mg tablets that saw their average price jump by 147% to £3.55 were granted a £5.00 concession, while the same pack sizes of allopurinol 100mg and 300mg tablets

that saw increases of 142% to £1.50 and of 141% to £5.14 received concession prices of £2.54 and £5.83 respectively.

While telmisartan 20mg tablets in our 'biggest risers' and 80mg tablets in our 'recent launches' (see Figure 1) both experienced triple-digit average rises, only 40mg were granted concession.

Chief among the fastest-falling average prices were sumatriptan 100mg tablets in packs of six, which dropped by almost a third to £4.52 (see Figure 3). Similar drops were experienced by olanzapine 7.5mg tablets in 28-count packs and 500-tablet presentations of metformin 500mg.

Omeprazole and simvastatin held onto their dominant positions at the top of our table of 'fast movers' showing the number of offers in the marketplace (see Figure 4). Lansoprazole jumped up a couple of places from September to overtake atorvastatin (**Generics bulletin**, 26 October 2018, page 18).

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.78	-11	£1.67	-19
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£17.99	-16	£27.16	-7
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.83	+1	£1.37	+11
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.30	-1	£4.87	-2
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£0.87	-7	£1.70	-22
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£2.99	-7	£5.28	-8
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.42	-5	£0.84	+12
Etoricoxib tabs 90mg 28	£2.15	-4	£3.40	-14
Ezetimibe tabs 10mg 28	£1.35	-6	£3.27	-8
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£3.25	+18	£5.33	+1
Ivabradine tabs 5mg 56	£4.05	-3	£8.36	-11
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.57	+4	£0.89	+6
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£4.89	-2	£10.02	-8
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£1.30	+4	£2.56	-11
Olmesartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.65	-6	£1.22	-2
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£2.20	-6	£3.98	±0
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£1.07	-2	£2.31	-5
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£3.58	-14	£6.39	-6
Rosuvastatin tabs 5mg 28	£0.72	-3	£1.15	+1
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£23.15	±0	£36.58	+31
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.23	±0	£0.39	-5
Tadalafil tabs 10mg 4	£0.97	+8	£1.67	-3
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£1.10	+25	£9.51	+649
Travoprost drops 40µg/ml 2.5ml	£2.10	-6	£4.02	-7
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£2.62	-27	£6.22	±0

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 September 2018 and 1-31 October 2018 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 24 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 September 2018 and 1-31 October 2018. 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 31 October). 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 (%)
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£0.98	±0	£17.66	+815
Furosemide tabs 40mg 28	£0.14	+27	£0.74	+270
Furosemide tabs 20mg 28	£0.14	+40	£0.72	+260
Ibandronic acid tabs 50mg 28	£4.10	-4	£23.20	+217
Telmisartan tabs 20mg 28	£0.89	+31	£2.97	+154
Naproxen tabs 500mg 28	£0.90	+22	£3.55	+147

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£2.88	-12	£4.52	-31
Olanzapine tabs 7.5mg 28	£1.10	-8	£3.14	-30
Metformin tabs 500mg 500	£4.33	±0	£6.72	-29
Flucloxacillin o/s 250µg/5ml 100ml	£5.80	-6	£14.05	-24
Pioglitazone tabs 30mg 28	£1.25	-24	£3.23	-22
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£2.42	-17	£4.23	-21

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 October 2018		
	August	September	October
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	138	147	139
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	127	140	124
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	128	120	118
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	139	133	116
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	98	101	102
Metformin tabs 500mg 28	103	101	102
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	112	111	97
Paracetamol caps 500mg 100	87	88	96
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	95	96	96
Amtriptyline tabs 10mg 28	111	115	95

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