

Propranolol prices are propelled upwards

All three strengths of propranolol were granted price concessions in December by the UK's Department of Health because of rising trade prices brought to its attention by the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC). Such price concessions are intended to ensure that pharmacists retain some dispensing margin on such products, which would otherwise be reimbursed at Drug Tariff prices.

The concessions, however, did not always compare favourably with actual average prices in the marketplace, according to WaveData. A concession of £5.98 (US\$9.83) for 28-tablet packs of propranolol 10mg was below the average market price of £6.03, although a reimbursement price of £6.50 for the same number of 40mg tablets more than compensated for the actual price of £5.55 (see Figure 3).

In contrast, quarterly Drug Tariff reimbursement prices for the

two strengths, based on historical price data, were £0.87 and £0.90.

Among the seven active ingredients granted price concessions in December were also 21-tablet packs of co-amoxiclav 250mg/125mg and 500mg/125mg for the second month in succession. December's concessions of £3.99 and £7.50, however, were higher than those of a month earlier (*Generics bulletin*, 6 December 2013, page 33). Amiloride 5mg in 28-tablet packs were granted the generous concession of £20.61, compared with an average trade price of £12.14; while gabapentin and trazodone put in more appearances alongside mebeverine 135mg tablets and prednisolone 5mg tablets.

Little movement was apparent in average trade prices of 'fast movers', although some lowest prices were more volatile. Average trade prices for risperidone had mixed fortunes (see Figures 1 and 2). **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Naproxen tabs 500mg 28	£1.13	+8	£1.69	-40
Naproxen tabs 250mg 28	£0.52	±0	£0.92	-35
Risperidone tabs 6mg 28	£0.98	+3	£2.32	-35
Piroxicam caps 20mg 28	£1.97	-1	£2.93	-33
Pramipexole tabs 350µg 30	£1.00	±0	£8.06	-27
Piroxicam caps 10mg 56	£1.97	-1	£3.03	-20

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amiloride tabs 5mg 28	£0.26	±0	£12.14	+137
Risedronate tabs 5mg 28	£2.86	+44	£8.50	+108
Propranolol tabs 10mg 28	£3.51	+1250	£6.03	+64
Furosemide tabs 20mg 28	£0.18	+20	£0.54	+41
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.26	+44	£0.54	+40
Propranolol tabs 40mg 28	£3.50	+317	£5.55	+35

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 November 2013 and 1-23 December 2013 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 32 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-30

November 2013 and 1-23 December 2013 in lowest and average UK trade prices of about 748 commonly-dispensed generics. The basket specifically excludes the 'fast movers' shown below, but includes other presentations of the same products. Each average price was calculated from at least 15 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£1.17	+2	£1.85	-6
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.49	±0	£0.75	+4
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.25	+4	£2.74	-14
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£1.30	±0	£2.06	+1
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.73	±0	£1.17	+1
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£1.04	+3	£1.34	-5
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£8.99	±0	£11.73	-4
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.72	+4	£1.01	+5
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.95	+7	£1.46	-5
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£0.99	-14	£1.82	-4
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£5.99	+11	£6.92	-1
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£3.31	+20	£5.14	+12
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£2.80	-2	£5.09	-10
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.72	-1	£1.05	+4
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.51	-12	£0.83	+3
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.84	±0	£1.37	+1
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.77	-1	£1.12	-2
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.98	±0	£1.53	+4
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£1.97	+59	£3.36	+3
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.52	-4	£0.89	+3
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.04	-19	£1.76	-1
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£9.65	+10	£11.36	-1
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.62	-14	£1.35	-3
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.71	±0	£1.20	-1
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.36	±0	£0.71	-1

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.49	±0	£0.96	±0
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.61	±0	£2.96	-6
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.52	±0	£1.03	-6
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.99	-14	£1.73	-5
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£29.08	±0	£45.34	-3
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.45	±0	£0.74	+6
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£1.09	±0	£1.62	+2
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.48	-2	£0.81	±0
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£1.12	-2	£1.49	-1
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.85	+16	£2.81	+4
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£1.04	+22	£2.46	+15
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£0.92	+5	£1.37	±0
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.95	+16	£1.61	+7
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.65	+6	£2.14	-1
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.43	-4	£0.96	-8

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