

Rizatriptan prices show some volatility

Three products launched in 2013 have been added to our 'fast movers' this month, following their inclusion in category M of the Drug Tariff for the first time in January. They are memantine, raloxifene and rizatriptan. They replace risperidone 2mg tablets, terbinafine 1% cream andtrandolapril 2mg capsules as the oldest products on our list.

Memantine and raloxifene prices have undergone steady, if unspectacular, falls since their generic launches last May and February, respectively. Rizatriptan prices, in contrast, have had a bumpier ride since launch last August. The lowest price for three-tablet packs of rizatriptan 10mg was £1.49 (US\$2.43) in January (see Figure 1), but it had reached as low as £0.89 last September, immediately after launch. That some firms had misjudged the competition was also clear in the average price, which rose by 14% to £7.34 last month, but had been

as low as £4.72 (*Generics bulletin*, 3 February 2014, page 21).

The lowest price of 28-tablet packs of esomeprazole 40mg fell by 12% to £2.90 during January, reducing the average price by 5% to £4.89. Meanwhile, the equivalent prices for capsules fell by 42% to £3.30 and by 12% to £8.48 (see Figure 2). Unusually, given the trade-price disparity, both tablets and capsules had almost identical reimbursement prices of £5.43 and £5.42 respectively. This would have meant many pharmacists lost money on dispensing the capsules.

More unlikely still, the capsules were in category C, based on the equivalent brand price, while the tablets were in category M, based on their historical prices in the marketplace. And a month earlier, their reimbursement prices had also been close at £6.58 and £6.57. Metformin 500mg was the month's biggest riser (see Figure 3). **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Ibandronic acid tabs 150mg 1	£0.45	-8	£2.64	-15
Esomeprazole caps 40mg 28	£3.30	-42	£8.48	-12
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£4.69	-41	£9.85	-11
Gabapentin caps 400mg 100	£3.49	-10	£6.20	-9
Isosorbide tabs 40mg 56	£6.99	-32	£12.52	-8
Doxazosin tabs 4mg 28	£0.30	±0	£0.49	-8

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Metformin tabs 500mg 28	£0.19	+6	£0.34	+30
Domperidone tabs 10mg 100	£0.98	+10	£2.41	+26
Levofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£1.64	+10	£10.25	+25
Naproxen tabs 500mg 56	£4.24	+9	£9.21	+25
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.63	+5	£1.00	+25
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.23	+15	£0.37	+22

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 December 2013 and 1-31 January 2014 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 36 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31

December 2013 and 1-31 January 2014 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 20 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£1.16	-1	£1.92	+4
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.49	±0	£0.77	+3
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.25	±0	£3.29	+20
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£0.83	-36	£2.08	+1
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.72	-1	£1.19	+1
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£1.04	±0	£1.36	+1
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£8.80	-2	£11.63	-1
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.63	-13	£0.95	-6
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.87	-8	£1.43	-2
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.19	+20	£2.00	+10
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£5.59	-7	£6.78	-2
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£2.90	-12	£4.89	-5
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£2.65	-5	£5.33	+5
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.67	-7	£1.06	+1
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.54	+6	£0.82	-1
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.74	-12	£1.41	+3
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.77	±0	£1.14	+2
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£1.19	+21	£1.57	+3
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£1.95	-1	£3.40	+1
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.49	-6	£0.93	+5
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£9.25	-21	£17.73	-4
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.20	+15	£1.81	+3
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£9.30	-4	£11.69	+3
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.61	-2	£1.47	+9
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.71	±0	£1.24	+3

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.36	±0	£0.72	+1
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.39	-20	£1.01	+5
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.61	±0	£2.90	-2
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.46	-12	£1.06	+3
Rabepazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.99	±0	£1.82	+5
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£7.79	+3	£12.50	+2
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£29.08	±0	£46.04	+2
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.45	±0	£0.76	+3
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£1.49	±0	£7.34	+14
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.46	-4	£0.84	+4
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.71	-8	£3.00	+7
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£1.04	±0	£2.55	+4
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.86	-9	£1.71	+6
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.75	+6	£2.29	+7
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.43	±0	£1.02	+7

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