

# September brings stratospheric increases

Some large price swings were recorded in September. Prices were upwardly volatile among Recent Launches (see Figure 1), but increases among the Biggest Risers were stratospheric (see Figure 2).

Average trade prices of desogestrel, duloxetine, eplerenone, rasagiline and rizatriptan of the recently-launched products were among those that moved by double-digit amounts, but these were all picked up by the Department of Health's (DoH's) reimbursement price concessions. Rasagiline 1mg was the odd one out as its average price dropped by 10% to £9.26 (US\$12.10), following a rapid price rise in July (**Generics bulletin**, 11 August 2017, page 14). Average prices of the others grew by between 12% and 72%.

With the exception of eplerenone, all of the highlighted price concessions – overriding the official pharmacy reimbursement prices in the quarterly Drug Tariff – were more than the equivalent average trade prices, thus giving pharmacists a dispensing margin.

Eplerenone's average price rise of 63% to £7.42 for 25mg tablets was too quick for the authorities, which thought that a reimbursement price concession of £7.00 would be enough.

Amlodipine and chlorpromazine were making waves with quadruple-digit average price increases during September. The DoH was on hand, however, to grant price concessions. Those for chlorpromazine 25mg, 50mg and 100mg were upwards from £28.00, while those for amlodipine 5mg and 10mg were over £3.00. Amiloride 5mg tablets were also on the DoH list with a concessionary price of £9.25.

By comparison with the price rises, the falling trade prices for quinapril, among others, were relatively modest, although sumatriptan 50mg bargains were to be had (see Figure 3). Simvastatin 20mg put in an unusual appearance among our Fast Movers in September, which were led as usual by the two big proton-pump inhibitors and the generic atorvastatin equivalent of Lipitor (see Figure 4).

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.78	±0	£1.15	±0
Benzydamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.85	+1	£5.46	+2
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£38.50	-1	£42.88	-3
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.85	±0	£1.32	+6
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.15	±0	£3.68	+1
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.49	±0	£7.26	+8
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.54	+19	£2.53	+18
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£1.65	+42	£4.76	+72
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£2.92	+9	£3.59	-2
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£3.56	±0	£7.42	+63
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.37	±6	£0.85	+12
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£6.82	-7	£8.66	+2
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.59	+5	£1.07	+27
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.75	±0	£1.13	+10
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£16.99	-4	£24.64	-2
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£6.55	+3	£14.85	+6
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£6.29	+88	£15.38	+3
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.65	-3	£1.03	+26
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.26	+10	£2.90	+4
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£1.99	+262	£9.26	-10
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£7.59	+1	£11.03	+12
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£22.99	-6	£30.64	+3
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.24	±0	£0.43	+16
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.79	-9	£1.23	-1
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£7.25	+1	£22.69	+5

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Chlorpromazine tabs 25mg 28	£1.62	+49	£26.29	+2,055
Chlorpromazine tabs 50mg 28	£1.39	+30	£25.12	+1,910
Chlorpromazine tabs 100mg 28	£1.65	+32	£26.31	+1,779
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.23	+53	£2.36	+1,080
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.27	+59	£2.35	+922
Amiloride tabs 5mg 28	£0.42	±0	£6.18	+636

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Paracetamol tabs 500mg 100	£0.37	-8	£0.65	-43
Quinapril tabs 20mg 28	£1.45	±0	£2.72	-36
Co-amilofruse tabs 5mg/40mg 28	£0.84	-6	£1.24	-33
Quinapril tabs 40mg 28	£1.74	±0	£3.11	-22
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£12.95	-30	£19.57	-16
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 1,000	£23.99	±0	£39.85	-14

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 30 September 2017		
	July	August	September
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	138	147	136
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	131	125	134
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	138	130	122
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	128	113	120
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	131	128	120
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	127	103	112
Bisoprolol fumarate tabs 2.5mg 28	116	103	109
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	107	109	108
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	119	104	107
Paracetamol caplets 500mg 100	121	107	107

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 August 2017 and 1-30 September 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 34 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 August 2017 and 1-30 September 2017. Averages calculated from at least 17 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 September). 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).

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Alternatively, contact Charles Joynson at WaveData Limited, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125. E-mail: [cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk](mailto:cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk).

