

Valsartan prices continue to move upward

Valsartan prices continued to rise in July, evidenced by those for the 80mg capsules listed in Figure 1. Having doubled in June (*Generics bulletin*, 11 July 2014, page 27), their 63% average increase to £10.13 (US\$17.11) last month was not sufficient, however, to feature among the ‘biggest risers’ in Figure 3.

Since last month, our price listings have been modified to introduce a new category that reflects which ingredients are most exciting the UK marketplace, as measured by the volume of price offers made to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors by generics suppliers. Older blockbuster generics dominate the first listing of what we are now calling ‘fast movers’, with omeprazole, lansoprazole and simvastatin leading the way (see Figure 2). We have included only one strength per ingredient, otherwise different strengths of lansoprazole and omeprazole would have dominated the top five places.

Meanwhile, ‘recent launches’ in Figure 1 lists the 25 most recently-launched generics that have subsequently been added to category M of the Drug Tariff of pharmacy-reimbursement prices. Reimbursement prices of these products are based on actual trade prices in the marketplace. The latest list includes two products – amorolfine lacquer and hydroxychloroquine – that were launched in March 2012 and added to category M in the latest quarter beginning in July.

Although much has been written about rising prices in recent months, average and lowest prices for candesartan 8mg and memantine 10mg tablets both fell by double-digit amounts in July. Average prices for other memantine strengths dropped even faster, as Figure 4 shows.

Average prices for memantine 10mg tablets have almost halved over the past six months from £12.07 in February (*Generics bulletin*, 7 March 2014, page 27), and now offer a 91% discount to the brand. **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amorolfine lacquer 5% 5ml	£4.45	-6	£7.09	-14
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.55	±0	£0.90	-2
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.39	-13	£0.99	-10
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£12.25	-15	£21.36	-4
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£7.99	-5	£10.86	-4
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.45	-8	£0.91	-2
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£2.05	±0	£3.01	-3
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.69	-1	£1.37	-3
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£5.40	-4	£5.87	-6
Hydroxychloroquine tabs 200mg 60	£3.48	-2	£4.27	-1
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.53	-2	£0.83	+2
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.95	-2	£1.68	-7
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£2.35	-10	£6.13	-18
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.10	-6	£1.63	-1
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.83	-9	£1.37	-1
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.49	+9	£1.08	-1
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.07	-2	£1.87	+5
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£5.70	-12	£9.11	-1
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£19.99	-11	£33.87	±0
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.99	-14	£2.86	-4
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.41	-5	£0.69	-3
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£1.07	+13	£1.93	+4
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.86	-3	£2.67	-12
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£2.20	+20	£10.13	+63
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.44	+5	£0.90	-3

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers		
	May	June	July
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	139	139	109
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	132	122	97
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	129	122	94
Tramadol caps 50mg 100	94	82	87
Atorvastatin tabs 10mg 28	95	100	86
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	94	93	85
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	92	89	84
Loratadine tabs 10mg 30	97	96	84
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	108	96	84
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	95	83	83

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Trandolapril caps 1mg 28	£0.79	+5	£7.32	+203
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£1.10	+17	£3.94	+158
Pizotifen tabs 0.5mg 28	£0.78	+81	£6.21	+103
Zolmitriptan tabs 5mg 6	£0.65	-2	£3.44	+95
Pizotifen tabs 1.5mg 28	£1.55	+78	£7.29	+93
Naftidrofuryl caps 100mg 84	£5.72	+13	£13.02	+91

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Memantine tabs 20mg 28	£3.45	-13	£10.80	-26
Memantine tabs 10mg 56	£8.95	+2	£14.11	-25
Senna tabs 7.5mg 60	£1.53	±0	£6.51	-20
Ibandronic acid tabs 150mg 3	£1.39	-21	£4.40	-18
Co-Amoxiclav tabs 250mg/125mg 21	£3.60	-9	£5.12	-17
Levetiracetam 100mg/ml 300ml	£12.99	-7	£17.91	-17

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 June and 1-28 July 2014 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 31 data points. Figure 2 (top right): Ranking of fastest-moving products subject of the most price offers made to independent UK pharmacists in recent months (one strength per ingredient). Figure 3 (centre right) and Figure 4 (bottom right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 June and 1-28 July 2014. Averages calculated from at least 12 data points. 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 3 and 4 (Source – WaveData).

WANT MORE LIKE THIS?

Detailed product price comparisons and other price analyses are available at www.wavedata.net.

To find out more about subscribing, please email your contact details to info@wavedata.co.uk and quote ‘GB online enquiry’ in the title line.

■ For further information see www.wavedata.co.uk. Alternatively, contact Charles Joynson at WaveData Limited, UK.

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

