

# Aripiprazole's prices continue to tumble

Nearly half was wiped off the average trade prices of aripiprazole 5mg, 10mg and 15mg during February, as prices for the antipsychotic continued to tumble. As Figures 1 and 3 show, average prices for the 5mg and 10mg strengths in 28-tablet packs both dropped by 45% last month to £4.95 (US\$7.00) and £4.77, respectively. The 15mg presentation was not far behind with a 44% price fall to £4.91.

Pharmacists, meanwhile, were being reimbursed at over £20 per pack. Their dispensing margin for the 10mg strength, for example, was 77% at a Drug Tariff reimbursement price of £20.81.

Other notable price fallers amongst recent launches in category M of the Drug Tariff – which is based on historical market prices – were duloxetine, eplerenone and memantine. Both their lowest and average prices fell sharply during February. Aripiprazole and eplerenone were added to category M on 1 July 2015 (*Generics bulletin*, 7 August 2015, page 27), since when their actual trade prices have declined

markedly. Otsuka's Ablify 10mg has a trade price of £96.04, meaning a 95% average discount of aripiprazole to the brand; while the trade price of Pfizer's Inspra 25mg is £42.72, giving an average 72% discount of eplerenone 25mg to the brand. Packs of 28 enteric-coated tablets of duloxetine 30mg experienced 30% falls in both lowest and average trade prices. The higher 60mg strength of the antidepressant almost made Figure 3 with an average price fall of 39%.

Among the biggest price risers in Figure 2 were two strengths of fluvoxamine, although the anxiety medicine was not listed in the monthly concessionary prices granted by the Department of Health. Neither were any of the other Figure 2 products listed among the 20 concessions, which included two lercanidipine, three pioglitazone and four trazodone presentations. Omeprazole and lansoprazole remained the fastest-moving products in Figure 4, as measured by numbers of price offers to independent pharmacists. **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amorolfine lacquer 5% 5ml	£4.49	+18	£6.34	-2
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.90	-16	£4.77	-45
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.41	-5	£0.72	-6
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.38	+6	£0.57	-8
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.59	-6	£1.50	-11
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£2.75	-7	£4.73	-26
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£6.29	-2	£8.79	+4
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.29	+2	£2.00	-7
Duloxetine E/C caps 30mg 28	£2.44	-30	£5.92	-30
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£4.19	±0	£5.30	-6
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£5.49	-11	£11.78	-10
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.20	-5	£0.74	-9
Hydroxychloroquine tabs 200mg 60	£2.25	-3	£3.24	-5
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.38	±0	£0.68	+1
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.42	-24	£0.98	-14
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.20	+8	£1.84	+10
Oxcarbazepine tabs 300mg 50	£4.85	-3	£6.44	-6
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.85	+16	£1.43	-10
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.75	±0	£3.90	-11
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£12.99	±0	£22.23	-8
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.80	±0	£1.78	-7
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£73.20	-8	£98.60	-10
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.26	-4	£0.48	-2
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.76	+4	£1.40	-2
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.30	±0	£1.97	-13

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 January 2016 and 1-29 February 2016 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 28 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 January 2016 and 1-29 February 2016. 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 29 February). 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 (%)
Ampicillin caps 500mg 28	£1.76	±0	£15.78	+236
Aspirin E/C tabs 75mg 56	£0.23	±0	£0.92	+142
Aspirin E/C tabs 75mg 28	£0.17	±0	£0.59	+111
Fluvoxamine tabs 50mg 60	£4.85	±0	£17.39	+73
Fluvoxamine tabs 100mg 30	£5.39	+2	£17.96	+69
Amitriptyline tabs 10mg 28	£0.20	+5	£0.55	+57

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Trimethoprim 50mg/5ml 100ml	£1.10	+1	£1.71	-59
Aripiprazole tabs 5mg 28	£1.99	-12	£4.95	-45
Aripiprazole tabs 15mg 28	£1.99	-19	£4.91	-44
Trimethoprim tabs 100mg 28	£0.40	±0	£0.86	-43
Olanzapine O/d tabs S/F 20mg 28	£0.92	-11	£1.64	-42
Olanzapine O/d tabs S/F 10mg 28	£0.74	+10	£1.00	-41

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 29 February 2016		
	December	January	February
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	118	133	124
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	101	127	107
Atorvastatin tabs 40mg 28	110	130	106
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	101	103	102
Bisoprolol fumarate tabs 2.5mg 28	100	96	98
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	98	109	94
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	88	94	93
Co-codamol tabs 8mg/500mg 100	86	89	92
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	98	101	91
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	95	105	91

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