

Category M has another two members

Two recent UK generics-market entrants – candesartan and naratriptan – have been added to our list of ‘fast movers’ to mark their transition from category C to category M in the latest Drug Tariff of pharmacy reimbursement prices. Moxonidine and pravastatin, launched in 2004, have been removed from our table to make way for them.

The generic launch of candesartan came at the end of April (*Generics bulletin*, 4 May 2012, page 19), when Takeda’s protection for its Amias brand expired, ending brand sales of £87 million (US\$140 million). Patent expiry for Naramig from GlaxoSmithKline was a month earlier (*Generics bulletin*, 23 March 2012, page 16).

Since launch, both products had been in category C of the Drug Tariff, meaning they were reimbursed at the same price as the brand’s trade price. The move in October from category C to category M –

which is based on actual prices in the marketplace – meant a 72% reduction in the reimbursement price to £2.80 for dispensing candesartan 8mg, and an 82% cut to £4.46 for naratriptan 2.5mg.

Pharmacy dispensing margins, however, were just 6% on average for candesartan and no better than 29% for the lowest price in the market (see Figure 1). Dispensing margins for naratriptan were better at 42% on average, rising to 72% for the best price on offer.

Candesartan prices suffered from the move to category M, falling by 29% on average for the 8mg strength and by 34% for the 32mg format (see Figure 2). Figure 3 confirms why shortages of temazepam 10mg and 20mg caused the products – among many others – to be given a ‘no cheaper stock obtainable’ (NCSO) concession in October, allowing pharmacists to dispense a more expensive alternative. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Risperidone tabs 6mg 28	£0.60	±	£3.56	-40
Losartan tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.81	+9	£1.46	-37
Candesartan tabs 32mg 28	£2.95	-13	£4.24	-34
Methotrexate tabs 2.5mg 28	£3.44	-3	£8.86	-32
Candesartan tabs 16mg 28	£2.47	+3	£3.36	-30
Candesartan tabs 4mg 28	£1.10	-50	£2.92	-28

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 September 2012 and 1-24 October 2012 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 27 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-30

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Temazepam tabs 10mg 500	£5.90	+9	£23.38	+102
Temazepam tabs 10mg 28	£2.28	+57	£4.51	+67
Temazepam tabs 20mg 28	£1.17	+26	£3.52	+62
Temazepam tabs 20mg 250	£5.58	±0	£15.63	+50
Nifedipine MR tabs 10mg 56	£1.09	±0	£2.13	+38
Nifedipine caps 5mg 84	£1.85	+1	£3.73	+35

September 2012 and 1-24 October 2012 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 12 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.15	-6	£0.22	-1
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.49	-6	£5.83	-5
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.79	+27	£1.62	-8
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.89	-10	£1.34	-10
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.40	-5	£2.15	-8
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£1.98	-5	£2.63	-29
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£1.79	-5	£2.37	±0
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£1.04	+2	£1.33	+12
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.81	+3	£1.18	-13
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.39	-14	£2.02	-15
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£6.99	+2	£8.91	-6
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£5.99	+33	£7.72	-5
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.64	-2	£1.02	+7
Fosinopril tabs 10mg 28	£5.60	+7	£16.38	+9
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.39	±0	£0.65	-12
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.42	+14	£2.13	-2
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.88	-1	£1.06	+2
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£1.49	-1	£2.08	-7
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.64	-3	£1.14	-1
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£1.10	-10	£1.60	-18
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£2.39	±0	£4.55	-9
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.79	-11	£1.03	-8
Mirtazapine orodisp. tabs 45mg 30	£1.45	±0	£1.87	-3
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£4.25	-4	£7.52	-5
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£1.25	±0	£2.58	-8

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.89	±0	£1.47	-6
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.63	+2	£1.04	-13
Perindopril tabs 4mg 30	£0.81	-10	£1.19	-3
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£1.49	-25	£2.83	-22
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.69	-26	£3.94	-9
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.99	±0	£1.72	-16
Risedronate sodium tabs 35mg 4	£0.42	+2	£0.55	-11
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.70	+1	£1.12	-1
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.39	+22	£0.63	+7
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£0.92	±0	£1.37	-6
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£0.95	+1	£1.28	-8
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.79	-2	£1.57	+1
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£1.13	+3	£1.56	-7
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£1.04	-19	£1.93	-2
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.59	±0	£1.57	-14

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.

