

Concessions cover more “short supplies”

Pharmacy body, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC), said it was “still in discussion with the UK Department of Health on a number of generic medicines in short supply” when it published the latest May list of monthly price concessions containing 17 products covering 11 ingredients.

Pharmacists dispensing co-tenidone or co-amilofruse, for example, would have been reimbursed at concessionary prices, rather than according to the Drug Tariff. However, one surprising omission from the list published on 14 May was valsartan, which in the 80mg strength shown in Figure 1 saw its average trade price rise by 62% to £3.19 (US\$5.34).

Similarly, the valsartan 40mg and 160mg strengths in Figure 3 experienced average trade price rises of over 70%. Pharmacists dispensing the two higher-strength capsule forms of valsartan would

have been out of pocket as the products’ Drug Tariff reimbursement prices in category M – based on actual historical market prices – were £2.03 and £2.37. The 40mg tablet form, however, was in category A – based in part on Actavis’ and Teva’s price lists – and its £2.23 Drug Tariff price exceeded its average trade price even after a 72% price hike.

Not that price concessions completely eliminate the possibility of pharmacists dispensing at a loss. The concessionary price of £5.00 for co-tenidone 50mg/12.5mg tablets exceeded the average trade price of £4.36, although pharmacists’ average dispensing margin would have been less than 13%. But the £4.32 concessionary price for co-amilofruse 2.5mg/20mg was less than the average market price of £4.88, meaning pharmacists on average would have dispensed at a loss.

The biggest average monthly price cuts are shown in Figure 2. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.56	+4	£1.41	-24
Aspirin Disp tabs 300mg 32	£0.19	+19	£0.35	-22
Cimetidine tabs 800mg 30	£1.26	-12	£3.03	-18
Rivastigmine caps 1.5mg 56	£2.99	-14	£6.56	-17
Co-amoxiclav tabs 250mg/125mg 21	£4.19	-33	£7.22	-16
Levofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£2.27	+9	£6.68	-15

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Co-tenidone tabs 100mg/25mg 28	£0.50	±0	£4.47	+205
Co-tenidone tabs 50mg/12.5mg 28	£0.37	±0	£4.36	+198
Co-amilofruse tabs 5mg/40mg 28	£0.79	+36	£5.09	+179
Valsartan caps 160mg 28	£1.99	±0	£4.28	+75
Co-amilofruse tabs 2.5mg/20mg 28	£3.94	+1171	£4.88	+73
Valsartan tabs 40mg 7	£0.32	±0	£1.25	+72

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 April 2014 and 1-27 May 2014 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 33 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-30 April

2014 and 1-27 May 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 17 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.94	-2	£1.71	+11
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.64	-2	£0.91	+6
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£0.64	-16	£1.81	-7
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.65	-3	£1.00	-2
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£18.95	-3	£23.23	-1
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.93	-2	£1.21	±0
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£8.49	±0	£10.59	+2
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.51	+19	£0.97	+8
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£2.25	+2	£3.12	+6
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.72	-3	£1.28	+4
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.18	+3	£1.82	+1
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£5.65	-5	£6.30	-1
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£2.79	+19	£3.76	-5
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£3.14	±0	£5.70	+17
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.54	±0	£0.82	±0
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.92	+11	£1.49	+5
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.62	-6	£1.03	+4
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.99	±0	£1.53	±0
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£2.84	+12	£4.42	+6
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.57	+2	£0.91	+11
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£5.65	-13	£8.26	-7
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.17	+4	£1.65	+3
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£9.22	+9	£11.23	+1
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.74	±0	£1.26	-6
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.33	±0	£0.71	+3

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.45	-4	£0.92	+9
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£0.66	-20	£2.70	+11
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.56	+4	£1.03	+7
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.99	±0	£1.73	±0
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£6.50	-13	£9.89	-4
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£22.50	-18	£34.16	-3
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.44	-6	£0.73	+3
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£1.32	±0	£2.92	+27
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.42	±0	£0.68	+4
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£1.05	-14	£1.86	-3
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.66	±0	£2.83	+8
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£1.99	±0	£2.60	±0
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.86	±0	£3.19	+62
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.69	-2	£2.35	+2
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.42	±0	£0.88	+6

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