

Fast movers feature minor price changes

Average price changes among our 'fast movers' were relatively small last month, with all but one in single digits (see Figure 1). However, much larger changes were apparent for the lowest prices as suppliers withdrew some of their best offers.

Mycophenolate 500mg tablets in 50-count packs, for example, could not be obtained by independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors for less than £8.99 (US\$14.40) after a 40% price hike, while the best price for 60-tablet packs of risperidone 2mg was 39% higher at £1.04. Falls in lowest prices were less dramatic, although deals for both 28-tablet packs of neбиволол 5mg and of pioglitazone 15mg were potentially 16% better in September than they had been in August.

The same pattern of price rises exceeding price cuts was apparent in our wider basket of commonly-dispensed generics. Two of the

'biggest fallers' in Figure 2 were sertraline 50mg and 100mg, but their average prices were only 28% and 22% lower. Average propranolol prices, in contrast, rose by as much as 88% (see Figure 3).

Isosorbide recently experienced dramatic price rises following shortages (**Generics bulletin**, 20 September 2013, page 23). The 20mg strength features in Figure 2 with a 25% average price fall, but the 10mg and 40mg strengths were both just outside the table with falls of 11%. Nevertheless, isosorbide was still granted price concessions in September in excess of Drug Tariff prices. Against average trade prices of £6.93 for the 20mg strength, £8.32 for the 10mg version and £15.53 for isosorbide 40mg, all in 56-tablet packs, the Department of Health was prepared to reimburse £5.97, £8.55 and £15.95, which would have left pharmacists out of pocket for dispensing the 20mg variant. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£1.49	-9	£3.26	-28
Isosorbide mononitrate tabs 20mg 56	£5.45	-9	£6.93	-25
Sertraline 100mg 28	£2.08	±0	£4.37	-22
Quinapril tabs 5mg 28	£0.75	+12	£1.71	-22
Quinapril tabs 10mg 28	£0.89	+6	£1.63	-20
Bumetanide tabs 1mg 28	£0.65	-2	£0.88	-18

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Propranolol tabs 40mg 28	£0.24	+14	£1.10	+88
Propranolol tabs 10mg 28	£0.17	+6	£0.37	+50
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£0.26	+4	£0.66	+47
Furosemide tabs 40mg 28	£0.12	±0	£0.24	+44
Phenobarbital tabs 60mg 28	£0.42	±0	£2.98	+44
Prednisolone tabs 1mg 28	£0.16	±0	£0.40	+44

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 August 2013 and 1-25 September 2013 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 18 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31

August 2013 and 1-25 September 2013 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 11 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£3.95	-2	£4.80	-3
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£1.09	-8	£2.61	-5
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.49	-6	£0.71	-6
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.28	-1	£2.62	+6
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£1.47	-13	£2.09	-1
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.89	-7	£1.24	-3
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£1.10	+15	£1.36	-4
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£10.05	-4	£11.68	-1
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.85	-2	£1.12	-4
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.62	+9	£1.50	+3
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.15	-7	£1.71	-7
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£6.15	-5	£8.01	-1
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£3.95	-1	£5.42	-3
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£2.95	+4	£5.26	+2
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.68	+10	£0.96	+2
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.64	+3	£0.80	-4
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.82	-9	£1.42	+7
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.61	-5	£1.05	+3
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.80	+19	£1.42	+16
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£0.99	+5	£3.31	+7
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.55	+12	£0.89	+2
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.45	-1	£1.87	-2
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£8.99	+40	£9.91	+4
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.69	-5	£1.42	-3
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.71	-16	£1.22	±0

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.39	-5	£0.74	-6
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.57	-16	£1.02	-7
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.66	+33	£2.97	-1
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.64	-7	£1.08	-1
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.99	+8	£2.34	-3
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£39.00	-5	£51.55	-3
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.48	+9	£0.69	+1
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£1.04	+39	£1.83	+5
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£1.21	+2	£1.50	-1
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.90	-4	£2.88	-1
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.88	±0	£1.82	+7
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£0.97	±0	£1.40	-1
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.84	-6	£1.31	-5
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.60	+2	£2.14	-2
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.50	+11	£1.01	-1

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