

# Five are added to category M in January

Five recently-launched products have been added to the 'fast movers' table with their January transfer to category M of the Drug Tariff of pharmacy reimbursement prices. The five newcomers are buprenorphine 2mg sublingual tablets in packs of seven, 56-tablet packs of venlafaxine 75mg, 30-tablet packs of desloratadine 5mg, 28-tablet packs of irbesartan 75mg and 56-tablet packs of tolterodine 2mg.

Unfortunately, space reasons have dictated that five older, big sellers have had to be removed from the table to make room for the newcomers. Launched in 2004 or 2005, the five are four-tablet packs of alendronate 70mg, 14-tablet packs of clarithromycin 500mg, 28-tablet packs of fosinopril 10mg, 56-tablet packs of lamotrigine 100mg and 28-tablet packs of sertraline 50mg.

Prices for all of the newly-added products declined in January

compared with the previous month. Both the lowest and average irbesartan price showed double-digit declines, but the biggest fall of 15% was in the lowest trade price of tolterodine (see Figure 1).

Comparing their average trade prices to those of their pharmacy reimbursement prices – based on weighted price data plus a dispensing margin – buprenorphine gave pharmacists a 26% dispensing margin in January, based on a Drug Tariff price of £4.39 (US\$6.91), desloratadine provided 34% on £4.95, irbesartan 38% on £2.60, tolterodine 15% on £5.64 and venlafaxine 22% on £2.96. In cash terms, this meant £1.68 for every desloratadine pack, but only £0.66 for venlafaxine.

Recently-launched candesartan showed the biggest price falls in January (see Figure 2); while shortages of trazodone and temazepam kept them amongst the biggest price risers (see Figure 3).

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Candesartan tabs 4mg 7	£0.36	-33	£0.78	-43
Ropinirole tabs 5mg 84	£3.80	±0	£10.17	-22
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 100	£1.00	±0	£15.06	-22
Pioglitazone tabs 45mg 28	£1.74	-32	£3.74	-19
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.51	-6	£1.80	-17
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.21	+11	£0.38	-17

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Isosorbide tabs 20mg 56	£0.99	-12	£2.98	+114
Trazodone caps 50mg 84	£3.12	-5	£12.22	+110
Trazodone cpas 100mg 56	£3.82	+11	£13.30	+75
Temazepam tabs 10mg 28	£11.00	±261	£20.74	+54
Trazodone tabs 150mg 28	£3.22	-13	£11.03	+47
Isosorbide tabs 10mg 56	£1.00	±0	£1.89	+44

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 December 2012 and 1-31 January 2013 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 36 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 December

2012 and 1-31 January 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 24 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.17	-2	£5.39	-5
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.86	-1	£1.47	+1
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.64	-11	£1.08	-10
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.35	±0	£2.04	-1
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£1.82	-9	£3.27	-5
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£1.48	-12	£2.08	-5
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.94	-2	£1.16	-3
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£1.89	-10	£3.27	-5
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.65	-6	£2.83	-28
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.37	±0	£1.98	+1
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£4.59	-23	£7.37	-10
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£3.57	-11	£6.66	-8
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.58	±0	£0.88	-8
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.45	±0	£0.70	-1
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.89	-10	£1.62	-10
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.85	+4	£0.98	-2
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£1.09	±0	£1.87	-4
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.61	-2	£1.08	-5
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.92	-7	£1.44	-4
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£1.89	+27	£3.59	-7
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.62	-6	£0.88	-7
Mirtazapine orodisp. tabs 45mg 30	£1.38	-1	£1.79	-4
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£4.15	-7	£6.67	-4
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£1.04	-15	£2.16	-13
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.92	+3	£1.44	-5

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.57	-3	£0.94	-4
Perindopril tabs 4mg 30	£0.81	±0	£1.15	-5
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.94	-18	£1.99	-6
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.24	-8	£3.63	-9
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.89	-7	£1.54	-9
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.33	-11	£0.60	-1
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.66	-4	£1.02	-7
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£0.93	+3	£1.39	±0
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£0.94	+1	£1.36	+4
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£3.32	-15	£4.77	-3
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.79	±0	£1.66	+2
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£1.03	-9	£1.53	-1
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.90	-10	£1.77	-4
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.64	±0	£2.30	-3
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.54	±0	£1.52	-11

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