Memantine prices take another tumble

Memantine prices took another tumble in October, with the average price of 28-tablet packs of memantine 10mg dropping by more than a fifth (see Figure 1). The lowest price available fell less quickly by 13%, indicating that more than one supplier was discounting. Prices for bulkier supplies of the same product declined even faster, with the average price for 56-tablet packs sinking by nearly a third to £8.02 (US$12.85). Prices for 28-tablet packs of memantine 10mg sank by nearly a fifth in September (see Figure 4). In any event, with a Drug Tariff reimbursement price of £1.26 were much cheaper than the lowest 56-pack price of packs rather than the larger; while three packs of 28 tablets at the lowest price of £1.26 were much cheaper than the lowest 56-pack price of £4.45 (see Figure 4). In any event, with a Drug Tariff reimbursement price of £1.26 were much cheaper than the lowest 56-pack price of

Interestingly, it would have been cheaper on average for pharmacists and dispensing doctors to have bought two of the smaller packs rather than the larger; while three packs of 28 tablets at the lowest price of £1.26 were much cheaper than the lowest 56-pack price of

was 26% on average, and possibly as high as 74%. Given a trade price of £34.50 for Lundbeck’s Ebixa original, the average generic price has fallen by 90%, while the lowest generic price has dropped by 96%.

Lowest and average prices for raloxifene 60mg also fell in October, while bargains could be found for candesartan 8mg, desloratadine 5mg and rizatriptan 10mg. Average prices for escitalopram 10mg slumped.

Fluoxetine was exciting a lot of activity in the trade last month as suppliers made numerous price offers to independent UK pharmacists, breaking up the usual dominance of omeprazole, lansoprazole and simvastatin (see Figure 2). This extra interest, however, was not reflected in substantial price rises (see Figure 3).

Dispensing doctors, unlike community pharmacists, are not able to benefit from concessionary prices, as was incorrectly stated in substantial price rises (see Figure 3).

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Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 September and 1-22 October 2014 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 24 data points. Figure 2 (top right): Ranking of fastest-moving products subject to the most price offers made to independent UK pharmacists (one strength per ingredient; offers recorded by 22 October). Figure 3 (centre right) and Figure 4 (bottom right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 September and 1-22 October 2014. Averages calculated from at least 18 data points. 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 3 and 4 (Source – WaveData).