

Pioglitazone price has multiplied tenfold

March brought skyrocketing average prices for pioglitazone tablets to independent UK pharmacists, according to the latest figures from WaveData. Equivalents to Takeda's Actos brand for treating diabetes saw prices that jumped by 955% to £7.81 (US\$11.14) for the 15mg strength, by 809% to £8.64 for the 30mg presentation and by 778% to £9.92 for 45mg tablets (see Figure 2).

However, as WaveData's figures show, if pharmacists had shopped around they could have purchased 28-count packs of the 15mg strength for as little as £0.27 per pack, and the 30mg and 45mg strengths for just under £0.50 for 28 tablets.

Elsewhere, average price rises among our basket of recently-launched generics were confined to leaps of a tenth for the likes of montelukast 10mg tablets or sildenafil 100mg tablets. Conversely, double-digit declines for presentations in Figure 1 included a fall of

a tenth for duloxetine 30mg capsules; of 15% for aripiprazole 10mg tablets; of 21% for eplerenone 25mg tablets; and of 27% for pregabalin 150mg capsules, which had already experienced a drop of a fifth to £5.95 in February (*Generics bulletin*, 16 March 2018, page 12).

Pregabalin also dominated our 'biggest fallers' category, with five presentations among the top six steepest average price drops, recording declines of between 36% and 44% (see Figure 3).

Only amlodipine 10mg tablets secured a place among them, registering an average fall of 37% to £0.72 despite the cheapest offer dropping by just 2% to £0.44.

Meanwhile, omeprazole continued to generate the most price offers in March, ahead of fellow proton-pump inhibitors lansoprazole and lipid-lowerers simvastatin and atorvastatin (see Figure 4). Paracetamol 500mg capsules saw almost a fifth more offers. G

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.47	-49	£3.92	-15
Benzylamine S/F 0.15% 300ml	£4.65	-2	£5.22	-1
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£29.85	-4	£35.81	-1
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.75	-6	£1.17	+4
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.29	+9	£4.17	+8
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£4.79	-6	£6.16	+3
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.59	-12	£2.07	-9
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£2.15	-14	£3.72	-10
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£2.50	-1	£3.06	-3
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£4.10	±0	£14.18	-21
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.49	±0	£0.82	-2
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£4.95	-1	£6.21	-4
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.54	±0	£0.79	±0
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.62	±0	£0.98	+10
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£8.00	-6	£14.70	+6
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£2.75	-16	£6.76	-17
Olmesartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.74	-17	£1.39	+2
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£2.47	-4	£4.35	-27
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.26	±0	£2.99	+6
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£1.25	+32	£2.88	-7
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£4.20	-12	£7.99	-3
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£22.39	±0	£25.38	±0
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.23	±0	£0.43	+10
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.95	+6	£1.35	-5
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£3.74	-14	£8.16	-7

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-28 February 2018 and 1-31 March 2018 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 28 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-28 February 2018 and 1-31 March 2018. Averages calculated from at least 12 data points. Figure 4 (bottom right): Ranking of fastest-moving products subject to the most price offers made to independent UK pharmacists (one strength per ingredient; offers recorded by 31 March). 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 2 and 3 (Source – WaveData).

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.27	+8	£7.81	+955
Pioglitazone tabs 30mg 28	£0.49	±0	£8.64	+809
Pioglitazone tabs 45mg 28	£0.47	-6	£9.92	+778
Fluoxetine caps 60mg 30	£2.15	±0	£9.15	+96
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.56	±0	£3.24	+57
Haloperidol tabs 5mg 28	£3.10	+70	£11.20	+57

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pregabalin caps 50mg 84	£2.50	-7	£5.18	-44
Pregabalin caps 25mg 84	£3.39	-2	£7.35	-44
Pregabalin caps 200mg 84	£3.87	-2	£6.28	-40
Pregabalin caps 100mg 84	£3.70	-11	£6.04	-38
Amlodipine besilate tabs 10mg 28	£0.44	-2	£0.72	-37
Pregabalin caps 225mg 56	£2.75	-6	£4.79	-36

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 March 2018		
	January	February	March
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	141	130	135
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	133	119	129
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	141	120	128
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	148	117	126
Paracetamol caps 500mg 100	108	101	119
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	125	110	116
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	137	110	115
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	117	113	111
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	125	113	107
Amoxicillin caps 500mg 21	101	107	103

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