

Pioglitazone takes double-digit downturn

Prices for pioglitazone 15mg tablets took a double-digit downturn last month potentially to give independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors an 80% profit margin for dispensing the diabetes treatment. As Figure 1 shows, the lowest price for 28-tablet packs of pioglitazone 15mg dipped downwards by 13% to £1.29 (US\$2.08), which represented an 80% dispensing margin on the Drug Tariff price of £6.61.

Compared with the trade price of Takeda's Actos, the discount offered by the lowest price for the generic – launched just over a year ago (*Generics bulletin*, 2 September 2011, page 19) – was about 96%. Even the average generic price this November offered a 93% discount to the brand. In terms of dispensing margin, the average price gave pharmacists 62% of the reimbursement price for dispensing the generic.

Other products to experience lowest and average price cuts last

month included atorvastatin 20mg, esomeprazole 40mg, levetiracetam 500mg and losartan 100mg tablets. These double-digit price falls were relatively small, however, compared with the average price discounts offered by repaglinide tablets and others in Figure 2.

Temazepam 10mg and 20mg tablets suffered heavy price rises in November, as Figure 3 shows. These reflected shortages of the products, which were reflected in the Department of Health granting price concessions of £11.00 for the 28-tablet packs. Other products granted price concessions last month were methotrexate 2.5mg, nitrazepam 5mg and tolbutamide 500mg tablets as well as topiramate 25mg capsules.

Nifedipine 5mg and 10mg and trazadone 50mg, 100mg and 150mg were granted 'no cheaper stock obtainable' (NCSO) concessions, allowing pharmacists to dispense a more expensive alternative. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Methotrexate tabs 2.5mg 28	£2.89	-16	£5.31	-41
Valaciclovir tabs 500mg 42	£7.85	-1	£18.85	-32
Ibandronic acid tabs 50mg 28	£19.44	-13	£47.83	-24
Repaglinide tabs 2mg 90	£3.20	-32	£6.90	-24
Repaglinide tabs 500µg 90	£1.47	+1	£2.81	-23
Betahistine tabs 16mg 84	£2.99	-14	£5.26	-22

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Temazepam tabs 10mg 500	£17.21	+192	£104.48	+297
Temazepam tabs 20mg 250	£10.85	+94	£58.18	+233
Temazepam tabs 20mg 28	£1.56	+33	£6.25	+71
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.35	+40	£0.54	+36
Temazepam tabs 10mg 28	£3.05	+34	£6.05	+28
Fluconazole caps 150mg 1	£0.15	±0	£0.27	+24

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 October 2012 and 1-30 November 2012 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 34 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31

October 2012 and 1-30 November 2012 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 23 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.15	±0	£0.23	+4
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.19	-7	£5.38	-8
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.83	+5	£1.68	+4
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.79	-11	£1.19	-11
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.36	-3	£2.01	-7
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£1.82	-8	£2.30	-12
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£1.69	-6	£2.35	-1
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.97	-7	£1.18	-11
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.69	-15	£2.95	+150
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.45	+4	£1.96	-3
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£6.09	-13	£7.94	-11
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£3.99	-33	£7.74	±0
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.59	-8	£0.94	-8
Fosinopril tabs 10mg 28	£5.54	-1	£13.97	-15
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.44	+13	£0.71	+10
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.19	-16	£1.93	-9
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.88	±0	£1.02	-4
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£1.45	-3	£1.97	-5
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.62	-3	£1.11	-3
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.97	-12	£1.51	-5
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£1.95	-18	£3.85	-15
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.69	-13	£0.93	-10
Mirtazapine orodisp. tabs 45mg 30	£1.39	-4	£1.78	-5
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£4.75	+12	£7.22	-4
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£1.24	-1	£2.36	-9

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.89	±0	£1.44	-2
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.58	-8	£0.95	-9
Perindopril tabs 4mg 30	£0.81	±0	£1.13	-5
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£1.29	-13	£2.49	-12
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.55	-8	£3.77	-4
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.98	-1	£1.50	-13
Risedronate sodium tabs 35mg 4	£0.37	-12	£0.55	+1
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.69	-1	£1.18	+5
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.46	+18	£0.77	+23
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£0.90	-2	£1.35	-2
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£0.93	-2	£1.24	-3
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.81	+3	£1.48	-6
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£0.99	-12	£1.52	-2
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£1.15	+11	£1.74	-10
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.54	-8	£1.38	-12

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