

Pramipexole and telmisartan catch the eye

Pramipexole and telmisartan stood out last month as two of the biggest UK price-fallers, but there were many candidates among the ‘fast movers’ that experienced double-digit price declines. What made the pair more obvious was that both appeared in Figures 1 and 2.

The former appearance is a first for telmisartan 80mg, which has been added to our ‘fast movers’ this month now it has been given category M status in the latest Drug Tariff of pharmacy reimbursement prices. Launched in December last year, telmisartan has been joined by two other new category M products: cilostazol 100mg, launched only in February; and desogestrel 75µg, launched in January 2013. They replace the three oldest products from last month’s list – bicalutamide, finasteride and nebivolol – which were all launched in 2008.

Another sartan, valsartan, continues to be the subject of warnings

from the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) about possible supply issues. In its April list of price concessions, it refers to a recent health service letter that talks about “intermittent shortages”, and a memo that advises clinicians to “consider substitution with an appropriate alternative”. Of the seven drugs in the same class, it notes, only candesartan and losartan are available as generics and are licensed for treating both hypertension and heart failure.

Among the 10 ingredients that were granted price concessions in April were co-amilofruse and co-tenidone, which also appear in Figure 3. Both co-tenidone strengths were reimbursed at £5.18 (US\$8.69), compared with average prices of around £1.50; while the stronger co-amilofruse presentation was reimbursed at £5.29 when it had an average trade price of £1.75.

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Indapamide tabs 2.5mg 56	£2.40	-2	£4.04	-42
Rizatriptan tabs 5mg 6	£2.79	-3	£6.96	-36
Modafinil tabs 100mg 30	£6.95	-3	£11.73	-33
Pramipexole tabs 350µg 100	£2.24	-46	£21.67	-29
Telmisartan tabs 40mg 28	£1.08	-9	£1.55	-29
Pramipexole tabs 180µg 100	£0.92	-26	£4.29	-28

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Co-amilofruse tabs 2.5mg/20mg 28	£0.31	+19	£2.69	+335
Co-tenidone tabs 50mg/12.5mg 28	£0.37	±0	£1.43	+135
Verapamil tabs 80mg 84	£1.26	±0	£3.64	+115
Co-amilofruse tabs 5mg/40mg 28	£0.58	+16	£1.75	+103
Co-tenidone tabs 100mg/25mg 28	£0.50	±0	£1.51	+98
Verapamil tabs 120mg 28	£0.76	+3	£2.17	+97

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 March 2014 and 1-23 April 2014 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 32 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 March

2014 and 1-23 April 2014 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 (%)
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.96	-2	£1.54	-12
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.65	+14	£0.86	-9
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£0.76	-4	£1.94	-2
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.67	±0	£1.02	-2
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£19.50	-1	£23.49	-9
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.95	+1	£1.21	-5
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£8.49	+6	£10.34	-8
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.43	±0	£0.90	+9
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£2.20	±0	£2.94	-3
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.74	-3	£1.24	-16
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.15	-3	£1.80	-7
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£5.95	±0	£6.38	-6
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£2.35	±0	£3.96	-6
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£3.14	-1	£4.89	-17
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.54	+2	£0.82	+5
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.83	+6	£1.42	-3
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.66	-4	£0.99	-6
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.99	±0	£1.53	-2
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£2.54	±0	£4.16	-10
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.56	+2	£0.82	-15
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£6.49	±0	£8.92	-10
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.13	±0	£1.60	-9
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£8.45	±0	£11.12	-7
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.74	-14	£1.34	-6
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.33	-3	£0.69	-5

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.47	-4	£0.84	-3
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£0.82	-34	£2.43	-11
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.54	+29	£0.96	-7
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.99	±0	£1.72	-2
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£7.49	±0	£10.26	-6
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£27.50	-5	£35.31	-13
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.47	+4	£0.71	-4
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£1.32	-11	£2.30	±0
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.42	-5	£0.65	-9
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£1.22	-16	£1.91	-30
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.66	±0	£2.63	-8
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£1.99	±0	£2.60	+3
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.86	±0	£1.97	+2
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.72	+5	£2.30	+2
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.42	-5	£0.83	-12

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