

Rocketing risperidone dominates UK rises

Risperidone continued to dominate UK price rises in September, according to the latest figures from market researcher WaveData, with the average price of the antipsychotic rising in the most severe case by a factor of 10. Last month, WaveData pointed to a shortage issue affecting the molecule that it predicted could persist well beyond August (**Generics bulletin**, 28 September 2018, page 19).

As Figure 2 shows, average price rises for 1mg, 2mg, 3mg, 4mg and 6mg tablets in September ranged between 295% and 916%, with the price to independent UK pharmacists of 4mg tablets in 60-count packs multiplying on average by more than 10 times to £38.70 (US\$50.85), even though packs could be bought for as little as £1.10 if pharmacists shopped around.

Concessions for risperidone offered by the UK's Department of Health and Social Care in September fell short of the averages

reported by WaveData, according to the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee. For 60-count packs of 2mg, 3mg and 4mg tablets, concessions of £21.25, £26.00 and £27.39 compared to actual averages of £22.19, £30.07 and £38.70 respectively.

Meanwhile, 100-count packs of nortriptyline 25mg tablets led the biggest fallers in Figure 3 with an average price drop of almost two-thirds, as the 10mg strength reflected an average decline of almost half in our basket of recent launches (see Figure 1). The steepest average rise seen among the recent launches came from etoricoxib 90mg tablets, 28-count packs of which saw an average rise of 17% to £3.97.

And our fast movers in Figure 4 showed omeprazole leading the pack in terms of the number of offers in the marketplace, closely followed by simvastatin. Atorvastatin followed, with a decline to 119 in September, compared to 127 in July and 138 in August.

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.88	-30	£2.06	-10
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£21.35	-10	£29.20	-2
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.82	+1	£1.23	+10
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.33	±0	£4.96	-5
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£0.94	-6	£2.19	+10
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£3.21	±0	£5.77	+8
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.44	±0	£0.75	-6
Etoricoxib tabs 90mg 28	£2.24	+5	£3.97	+17
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£2.75	±0	£5.28	-4
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.55	+2	£0.84	+4
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.58	-3	£0.86	-1
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£4.99	-9	£10.84	+4
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£1.25	-5	£2.88	-47
Olmesartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.69	-8	£1.25	-10
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£2.35	+2	£3.97	-2
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.25	±0	£2.99	+6
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£1.09	-1	£2.43	+11
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£4.17	-8	£6.80	+6
Rosuvastatin tabs 5mg 28	£0.74	-4	£1.14	-7
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£23.15	+4	£27.84	+2
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.23	±0	£0.41	+5
Tadalafil tabs 10mg 4	£0.90	-9	£1.73	+12
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.88	±0	£1.27	+7
Travoprost drops 40µg/ml 2.5ml	£2.23	-11	£4.31	-1
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£3.59	±0	£6.25	-10

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 August 2018 and 1-30 September 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 23 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 August 2018 and 1-30 September 2018. Averages calculated from at least 16 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 30 September). 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 (%)
Risperidone tabs 4mg 60	£1.10	±0	£38.70	+916
Risperidone tabs 1mg 20	£0.95	+352	£4.14	+696
Risperidone tabs 3mg 60	£0.99	±0	£30.07	+657
Risperidone tabs 6mg 28	£1.57	+43	£17.21	+562
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£1.02	±0	£22.19	+431
Risperidone tabs 1mg 60	£0.49	±0	£11.68	+295

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Nortriptyline tabs 25mg 100	£1.25	-16	£2.80	-62
Celiprolol tabs 200mg 28	£5.99	-1	£7.45	-22
Metformin tabs 850mg 56	£0.42	±0	£0.70	-22
Celiprolol tabs 400mg 28	£7.70	-7	£12.07	-21
Dexamethasone tabs 500µg 30	£3.25	±0	£7.72	-14
Reppaglinide tabs 1mg 90	£1.05	±0	£5.13	-11

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 30 September 2018		
	July	August	September
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	129	137	137
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	119	127	131
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	127	138	119
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	86	105	113
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	119	128	108
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	101	102	108
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	109	112	104
Amitriptyline tabs 10mg 28	104	111	104
Bisoprolol fumarate tabs 2.5mg 28	105	98	103
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	88	97	102

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