

# September brings a tale of two sartans

Valsartan 40mg, 80mg and 160mg capsules were again on the monthly price concession list of the Department of Health in September, allowing pharmacists and dispensing doctors to claim far more in reimbursement than the official Drug Tariff prices (**Generics bulletin**, 19 September 2014, page 23). Prices for candesartan 8mg tablets, however, fell by double-digit amounts. The lowest price slumped by 16%, reversing a trend of the previous month (**Generics bulletin**, 5 September 2014, page 25). Meanwhile, the average price of candesartan 8mg tablets dropped by 10% to £0.89 (US\$1.45), an order of magnitude less than the average price of £10.03 for valsartan 80mg capsules, which were granted a concessionary reimbursement price of £10.80 (see Figure 1).

Memantine 10mg tablets continued their steady price decline in September, with the average price for 28 tablets falling by 18% to

£4.55, and the lowest price dropping faster by 19% to £1.45. Prices for rizatriptan 10mg tablets were also heavy fallers.

None of the biggest price risers in Figure 3 were on September's price concession list. Cefuroxime 250mg tablets, with a 95% average price rise, for example, are in category A of the Drug Tariff, which is based on the price lists of Actavis and Teva as well as the top two wholesalers. Their Drug Tariff reimbursement price of £14.81 far exceeded their increased average market price of £7.58, although pharmacists may have rued the fall in margin. Likewise risendronate 30mg tablets, which had a Drug Tariff price of £105.70 in category A.

Pramipexole 350µg tablets, however, had the distinction of having appeared among the biggest average price fallers in August. It was alongside zolmitriptan 5mg tablets, for which there were still price falls in September (see Figure 4).

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amorolfine lacquer 5% 5ml	£3.95	-7	£6.57	-8
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.52	-4	£0.87	-5
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.41	-16	£0.89	-10
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£11.95	-1	£19.56	-5
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£7.99	-4	£11.21	-1
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.48	±0	£0.89	-3
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.80	-5	£2.70	-4
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.69	±0	£1.20	-12
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£5.19	±0	£5.62	-1
Hydroxychloroquine tabs 200mg 60	£3.40	±0	£4.12	-2
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.46	-6	£0.78	+1
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.95	-4	£1.69	-6
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£1.45	-19	£4.55	-18
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.05	-5	£1.57	-1
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£1.09	+10	£1.42	±0
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.49	+2	£1.04	-2
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.34	±0	£1.84	-1
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£4.70	±0	£8.41	+1
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£16.50	-13	£31.32	-2
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.95	-17	£2.79	-8
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.41	+8	£0.70	+1
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.99	+4	£1.70	-5
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.54	±0	£2.53	-3
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£6.35	-21	£10.03	-4
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.42	±0	£0.93	+2

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers			
	July	August	September	
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	156	141	120	
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	140	129	99	
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	129	122	95	
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	111	110	94	
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	110	99	93	
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	100	101	91	
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	109	104	90	
Bisoprolol tabs 2.5mg 28	111	88	88	
Tramadol caps 50mg 100	105	83	88	
Warfarin tabs 1mg 28	102	107	88	

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Cefuroxime tabs 250mg 14	£2.89	+7	£7.58	+95
Risedronate tabs 30mg 28	£45.50	+9	£84.51	+60
Pramipexole tabs 350µg 100	£1.70	-13	£23.28	+58
Trandolapril caps 1mg 28	£0.88	±0	£10.68	+44
Venlafaxine caps 150mg 28	£1.69	-3	£4.70	+38
Olanzapine tabs S/F 5mg 28	£0.69	±0	£1.66	+27

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.70	±0	£1.08	-46
Allopurinol tabs 300mg 28	£0.33	-6	£0.64	-46
Propranolol tabs 10mg 28	£1.40	-3	£2.33	-28
Zolmitriptan tabs 5mg 6	£0.65	+5	£1.56	-27
Rivastigmine caps 4.5mg 28	£1.95	-2	£5.41	-26
Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml 100ml	£0.46	+2	£0.61	-26

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 August and 1-24 September 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 33 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 24 September). Figure 3 (centre right) and Figure 4 (bottom right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 August and 1-24 September 2014. Averages calculated from at least 17 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).

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