

# UK buprenorphine concessions fall short

Price concessions granted by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in June fell short of average prices in the marketplace for buprenorphine sublingual tablets in 2mg and 8mg strengths, according to the latest figures from WaveData.

Topping the list of biggest risers, buprenorphine 2mg sublingual tablets saw an average increase of 224% to £5.89 (US\$7.79), but the DHSC offered a concession price of just £5.24. However, this would have been enough to compensate pharmacists that secured the cheapest available offer, despite this rocketing up by 470% to £4.50.

For the 8mg strength, an average price of £11.28 to independent pharmacists in June represented a rise of 217%. The DHSC concession price of £10.90 once again fell short of this average, but comfortably exceeded the minimum price that more than doubled to £3.25.

A concession of £1.14 for nebivolol 5mg tablets also fell short of

the average trade price that was up by two-thirds to £1.49 (see Figure 2), although a £12.48 concession overcompensated for latanoprost 0.005% 2.5ml eye drops that saw a similar average increase to £2.45.

Elsewhere, furosemide led the biggest fallers (see Figure 3), while pioglitazone prices saw a tumble of between a fifth and a quarter. Nevertheless, price concessions of £4.80, £6.50 and £6.00 granted by the DHSC for pioglitazone 15mg, 30mg and 45mg tablets respectively fell short of the averages in all three cases.

In our recent launches, nortriptyline 10mg tablets and rasagiline 1mg tablets showed the most pronounced movement with average increases of 17% (see Figure 1), whilst aripiprazole 10mg tablets fell by more than a tenth.

And statins continued to lead our fast movers – molecules with the most price offers in the marketplace – in June (see Figure 4).

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.99	-34	£2.38	-12
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£24.99	-9	£31.88	-7
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.75	±0	£1.22	+4
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.18	-2	£3.82	-1
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£1.19	-25	£2.91	-7
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£3.61	±0	£8.46	+2
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.45	-2	£0.80	+3
Etoricoxib tabs 90mg 28	£2.10	-5	£3.32	±0
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£2.85	-29	£5.60	-2
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.55	±0	£0.84	+9
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.57	-3	£0.85	-6
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£6.05	-11	£12.56	+5
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£1.35	+8	£7.49	+17
Olmesartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.79	±0	£1.31	-4
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£2.25	±0	£4.29	+7
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.26	±0	£3.00	+2
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£1.04	+5	£2.85	+17
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£4.95	±0	£7.13	-2
Rosuvastatin tabs 5mg 28	£0.79	±0	£1.60	+5
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£21.99	+10	£26.19	+3
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.24	-14	£0.43	-9
Tadalafil tabs 10mg 4	£1.10	+11	£1.70	-1
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.85	±0	£1.23	+2
Travoprost drops 40µg/ml 2.5ml	£2.78	-17	£5.43	+1
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£3.49	-6	£7.29	±0

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 May 2018 and 1-30 June 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 31 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 May 2018 and 1-30 June 2018. Averages calculated from at least 20 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 June). 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 (%)
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£4.50	+470	£5.89	+224
Buprenorphine tabs 8mg 7	£3.25	+139	£11.28	+217
Ramipril tabs 5mg 28	£0.32	±0	£1.52	+83
Risedronate tabs 30mg 28	£38.87	+116	£99.83	+74
Latanoprost drops 0.005% 2.5ml	£1.09	±0	£2.45	+68
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.59	+2	£1.49	+66

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Furosemide tabs 40mg 28	£0.08	±0	£0.15	-46
Doxazosin tabs 1mg 28	£0.36	+89	£0.75	-26
Pioglitazone tabs 30mg 28	£2.90	-3	£8.61	-24
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£2.50	-16	£4.87	-23
Pioglitazone tabs 45mg 28	£1.99	-20	£6.97	-23
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£1.25	-50	£5.97	-20

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 30 June 2018		
	April	May	June
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	147	120	135
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	147	121	120
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	150	128	115
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	108	98	111
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	141	106	110
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	129	113	108
Amitriptyline tabs 10mg 28	111	105	105
Bisoprolol fumarate tabs 2.5mg 28	111	94	98
Amitriptyline tabs 25mg 28	95	84	97
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	100	88	97

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