

# Brexit adds to price turbulence during April



Buying prices have been turbulent of late, due to the 'Brexit effect' and other market influences such as changing exchange rates, regulatory concerns and the threat of pressure on manufacturing costs in the Far East filtering through to end-users.

Currently, though, doctors still command preferential buying prices in generics. In terms of market performance during April, no single product stands out: however, among the risers are two each of acarbose, pantoprazole and sertraline tabs, as well as, oral memantine, and among the fallers: two each of repaglinide tabs and Sereflo Inhaler CFC-free.

## Fallers

Almotriptan tabs 12.5mg x9 saw prices move in both directions during April, but the net effect was an average downward movement of 69 per cent. The best deals below £15.00 were from Ethigen, DE Group, Alliance and Numark.

By the end of April, the number of offers for diclofenac tabs 50mg x28 had reduced from 13 in January to eight. This would suggest supply problems except for an average reduction in price of 50 per cent. Only Ethigen and DE were selling below £1.10 in April.

Reductions in the English drug tariff in March and May for levothyroxine tabs 12.5mcg x28 has driven down the average price by 46 per cent. In April there were no offers above £3.00, compared to eight in January. The best deals below £1.50 were from OTC Direct, Numark, Teva, Alliance, Munro and Beta.

## Risers

Tolbutamide tabs 500mg x28 saw increases across all drug tariffs from £3.50 to £3.74 at the beginning of April. Together with the concession price of £22.70, this may explain the 469 per cent increase in average prices. However, nearly half of market prices are now above £20.00 whereas they were all below £5.00 in January. During April, prices remaining in the market below £10.00 were from Munro, Trident, Eclipse, DE, Beta, Numark and Accord.

Pantoprazole tabs 20mg x28 were granted a concession price of £1.73 in April, accompanied by a rise in the English drug tariff from £0.82 to £0.90. These probably contributed to the average price rise during April of 177 per cent. Remaining good April deals below £0.50 were from DE, Cambrian, Eclipse, AAH, Trident, Crosspharma, B&S, Beta, Munro, Aver, Target, Numark, Lexon and Ethigen.

Concession prices and drug tariff increases were also evident for Risedronate Sodium tabs 35mg x4 in April, and there were price increases of 169 per cent on average with most suppliers increasing their prices. The remaining deals below £10.00 were from Trident, Eclipse, Purepharm, Lexon, Target, Sigma, Meanwood and Numark.