

Brexit dealings flavour PI product supply

With an eye on progressing Brexit plans, this month's special analysis looks at the number of products only available as an import. This has found that a fairly consistent 800 products are only available each month as parallel imports, although there are early hints that the supply routes are expanding to reduce reliance on European suppliers. It will depend on the deal – or no deal – in the current Brexit discussions to truly determine the supply landscape after March 2019.



In terms of generics, the most obvious stand-out product in this month's purchase price risers and fallers was quetiapine tabs with five packs joining the fallers. Also, jostling for space in the fallers pen during June were three packs of mometasone furoate cream or ointment, two packs of finasteride tabs and the 84 pack of prochlorperazine tabs 5mg. Joining the 28 pack in the risers were two packs each of buprenorphine sublingual, dicycloverine, nicorandil and ramipril tabs.

Fallers

Many suppliers reduced their prices for quetiapine tabs 100mg x60 in June in advance of a dramatic drop in the English drug tariff from £43.54 to £17.01. By the end of June, the number of price offers had grown from seven to 16 with the best offers in that range available from AAH, Lexon, Purepharm, Ethigen, Target, DE, Teva, Munro, B&S and Mawdsleys.

Similarly, offers for the 60 pack of 200mg quetiapine tabs fell by 55 per cent during the month ahead of a reimbursement price collapse. Many suppliers reduced their prices and the best offers (below £5.00) were from Teva, AAH and Lexon.

The average price of finasteride tabs 1mg x28 fell by 51 per cent in June as a small number of suppliers, both full and short line, reduced their prices. The best offers below £4.00 were on offer from DE, Mawdsleys, Alliance, AAH and Lexon.

Risers

The average price of Nebivolol tabs 5mg x28 rose by 173 per cent on average in June as a number of suppliers increased prices, an NCSO concession price was published and the number of market offers below £1.00 fell by seven to 23 by the end of the month. Suppliers continuing to offer stock at under £1.00 included DE, Cross pharma, Beta, B&S, Munro, Target, Mawdsleys, Lexon, Ethigen, Numark, OTC Direct and Alliance.

Many suppliers dramatically increased their prices for buprenorphine sublingual tabs 8mg x7 in June, even though the drug tariff price for the sugar free form remained the same. The number of market offers increased by 12 to 62 in June, refuting the notion of a shortage. However, none were below the June tariff price of £1.81; in May, 19 offers were below this level. The remaining offers below £7.00 were from Ethigen, Numark, ORC Direct and Alliance.

For nicorandil tabs 20mg x60 and for pharmacies an NCSO concession price of £4.65 accompanied a price increase of 118 per cent, as many suppliers increased their June prices. Although the number of market offers for the past three months has remained between 49-55, the number of market offers at prices below the English drug tariff has declined – from 45 in April to 34 in June. Adding further woe, the drug tariff fell from £3.88 in June to £3.37 at the beginning of July. The remaining good offers below £3.00 were from Eclipse, DE, Beta, OTC Direct, Cavendish, AAH, Cambrian, Alliance, Lexon, Target, Ethigen and B&S.