

Concession prices on the rise as supply complexities increase



Shortages are much in the news at the moment as the introduction of FMD (Falsified Medicines Directive) and Brexit make the manufacturing and transport of pharmaceuticals considerably more complex. The volume of concessions, which rose to the end of 2017 before falling in 2018, is now on the rise again. Additionally, the value of the concession price rises is once again on the rise, mirroring the pattern of volume increases. This is likely to mean shortages in the generics market for some time to come.

Making the headlines among January's purchase price movers were, among those rising, the four packs each of candesartan and carvedilol tabs, and two packs of nortriptyline tabs, and among those falling three packs of risperidone tabs, and two each of pioglitazone and temazepam tabs.

Risers

Market prices for candesartan tabs 8mg x28 rose almost tripled in January as 16 suppliers increased prices and a concession price of £4.57 was granted. The remaining good deals below £1.00 were from Trident, AAH, Beta, Phoenix, the DE Group, OTC Direct and Teva.

The 16mg x28 pack of candesartan tabs also saw a concession price granted in January, this time for £4.22. The remaining deals below £1.00 were from Beta, AAH and Trident.

Carvedilol tabs 25mg x28 saw a reduction in the concession price from £6.99 to £1.38 in January, despite an average rise in the market price of 195 per cent. The Scottish drug tariff, however, rose from £1.64 to £6.99. The best deals in January below £0.70 were from the DE Group, Trident, Eclipse and Teva.

Fallers

January saw a number of suppliers and manufacturers reduce their prices for temazepam tabs 20mg x28 despite a 2p rise in the drug tariff price to £1.39. The best deals in January below £1.00 were from AAH, Teva, the DE Group and Lexon.

Temazepam tabs 10mg x28 saw a 77 per cent reduction in market price as the concession price fell from £1.65 to £1.46. Suppliers quoting high prices made some reductions and the best deals below £1.00 were available from Teva, Cambrian Alliance and the DE Group.

Nine companies cut prices for dosulepin caps 25mg x28 in January as the concession price fell from £3.52 to £3.00. However, three companies kept their prices the same and a couple actually increased prices. The best deals below £2.00 were available from AAH, the DE Group, Eclipse, Teva, Phoenix, Beta, Purepharm and Medihealth North.