

Oxybutynin prices see huge leap in April

UK trade prices for urinary and bladder treatment oxybutynin are in the spotlight this month, after steep rises – that have seen generics prices multiply three- and four-fold – prompted a swift but insufficient response from the country’s Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC).

As well as a £1.11 (US\$1.55) price concession for 56-count packs of oxybutynin 2.5mg tablets that has been granted by the DHSC for April (*Generics bulletin*, 27 April 2018, page 11), the Department has also granted a further concession of £1.87 for the same pack size of the 5mg strength. However, WaveData indicates, these concessions fall far short of real average prices in the marketplace.

The £1.11 concession for the 2.5mg strength compares to an average price per 56-tablet pack that leapt by 398% to £5.12, according to a WaveData comparison of prices from 1-31 March 2018 and 1-26 April 2018. Meanwhile, the £1.87 concession for 5mg tablets compares with an average price that jumped by 327% to £6.80.

Without agreed DHSC concession prices as *Generics bulletin* went to press were 84-count packs of oxybutynin 5mg tablets – that saw their average price quadruple to £7.84 – and the same pack size of the 2.5mg strength, which experienced the steepest rise of all with an increase of 445% to £7.25. All comparisons were based on averages calculated from at least 30 data points.


Looking at longer-term data for 56-tablet packs of the 2.5mg strength, WaveData observed that the spike in April came after a long period of relative stability, with the average price having remained around the £1.00 mark for almost two years, and the lowest available offers in the market around a fifth below that (see Figure 1).

Examining average prices for all four presentations over the longer term, WaveData noted that the current surges marked a return to prices not seen since for almost eight years, when average UK generics prices hit a peak of more than £10.00 for 84-tablet packs of the 5mg strength in 2010 (see Figure 2).

In terms of the number of offers recorded by WaveData, all four presentations followed a similar pattern over the past two years. As Figure 3 shows, a peak in mid-2017 was followed by a decline over the next six months that led to the number of offers hitting a low at the very end of last year, before climbing gradually to the current position.

Finally, WaveData noted that the current pricing for 84 oxybutynin 5mg tablets had brought the price of the generic roughly in line with the last price recorded for Sanofi’s equivalent Ditropan brand in late 2014 (see Figure 4).

According to the UK’s National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE), 2.5mg and 5mg oxybutynin tablets are available from a number of generics firms. These include AAH, Accord, Actavis, Alliance Healthcare, Almus, DE, Niche Generics, Phoenix, Sigma, Strides Shasun, Tillomed and Waymade.

Sanofi’s Ditropan original has a National Health Service (NHS) indicative price of £1.60 for the 2.5mg strength in 84-tablet packs, while generic 2.5mg tablets in 56-count packs have a Drug Tariff price of £1.00. Meanwhile, for the 5mg strength – which is also available as an authorised generic from Sanofi’s Zentiva under the Cystrin name – the Ditropan original has an NHS indicative price of £2.90 for 84 tablets. Other 5mg generics have a Drug Tariff price of £1.32. 

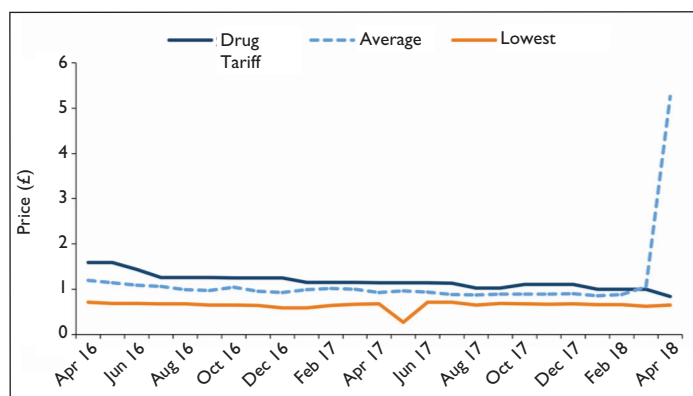


Figure 1: Average and lowest UK prices for 56 oxybutynin 2.5mg tablets between April 2016 and April 2018 (Source – WaveData)

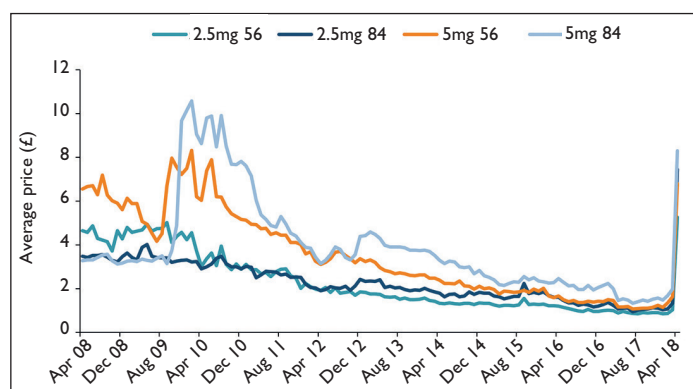


Figure 2: Average UK price trends for oxybutynin across four presentations between April 2008 and April 2018 (Source – WaveData)

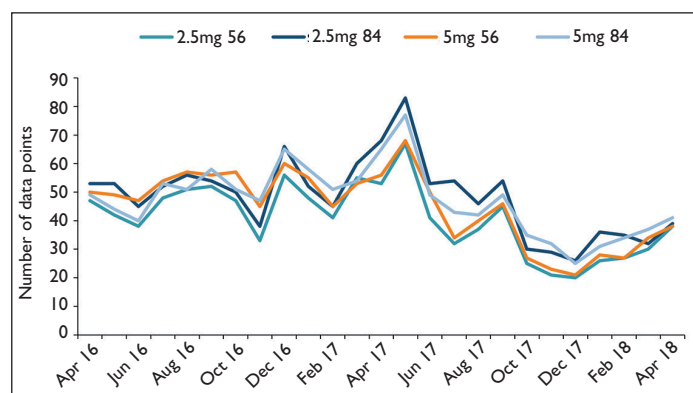


Figure 3: Number of offers observed for oxybutynin across four presentations between April 2016 and April 2018 (Source – WaveData)

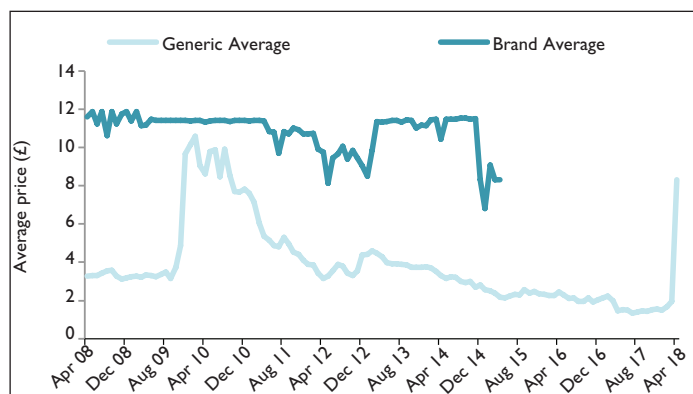


Figure 4: Average generic and brand prices for 84 oxybutynin 5mg tablets between April 2008 and April 2018 (Source – WaveData)

Up to the minute live retail market pricing is available for the UK and Eire on Wavedata Live at wavedata.net.

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