

Aripiprazole's Abilify discount tops 98%

Aripiprazole 10mg and eplerenone 25mg prices dropped by double-digit amounts in March, with both the subject of 18% average price falls. With Otsuka's Abilify aripiprazole equivalent priced at £96.04 (US\$136.53), the discount to the brand was over 98% for the lowest price and 96% on average. The equivalent discounts of eplerenone 25mg to Pfizer's Inspru were 89% and 77%.

Price offers for both memantine 10mg and montelukast 10mg were withdrawn last month, with the result that the lowest price for the former rose by 17%, and that for the latter by 31%. Nevertheless, with the Drug Tariff pharmacy reimbursement price set at £1.46 for memantine 10mg, the margin for dispensing it was as high as 66% for pharmacists who shopped around, and just under 30% on average.

Pharmacists dispensing montelukast 10mg, however, were less fortunate. With a Drug Tariff price of £1.77, the dispensing margin was just 11% for the increased lowest trade price, and pharmacists

would have lost money dispensing the product at its average price.

Price rises for memantine 10mg and montelukast 10mg fell well short of those for some of the Biggest Risers in Figure 2, amongst which bumetanide 1mg was the subject of a 48% average price increase. Bumetanide 1mg was the only product from Figure 2, however, to feature on the Department of Health's monthly list of price concessions for products with trade prices out of step with their Drug Tariff reimbursement prices. The price concession of £2.50 would have given pharmacists an average dispensing margin of 16%, although 57% was available if they could source bumetanide at its lowest price.

Pregabalin 75mg and trimethoprim 200mg were some of the Biggest Fallers in Figure 3. Both experienced double-digit price falls in their lowest as well as average prices. The appearance of citalopram 20mg in the Fast Movers of Figure 4 – products subject to the most price offers – possibly reflects its top position in Figure 3.

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amorolfine lacquer 5% 5ml	£4.49	±0	£6.11	-4
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.68	-12	£3.93	-18
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.42	+2	£0.74	+2
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.37	-3	£0.59	+4
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.59	±0	£1.50	±0
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£2.69	-2	£4.76	+1
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£6.25	-1	£8.79	±0
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.27	-2	£2.13	+7
Duloxetine E/C caps 30mg 28	£2.25	-8	£5.22	-12
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£3.85	-8	£5.50	+4
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£4.91	-11	£9.71	-18
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.19	-5	£0.72	-3
Hydroxychloroquine tabs 200mg 60	£2.25	±0	£3.44	+6
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.39	+3	£0.68	±0
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.49	+17	£1.03	+5
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.57	+31	£1.91	+4
Oxcarbazepine tabs 300mg 50	£4.97	+2	£6.60	+2
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.92	+8	£1.48	+3
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.75	±0	£4.03	+3
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£11.95	-8	£21.32	-4
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.80	±0	£1.83	+3
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£66.00	-10	£96.46	-2
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.26	±0	£0.54	+13
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.79	+4	£1.36	-3
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.29	-1	£1.99	+1

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-29 February 2016 and 1-31 March 2016 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 22 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-29 February 2016 and 1-31 March 2016. Averages calculated from at least 21 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 31 March). 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 (%)
Metronidazole tabs 200mg 21	£0.23	-4	£1.50	+84
Ramipril tabs 1.25mg 28	£0.36	+6	£0.95	+71
Acarbose tabs 100mg 90	£5.23	±0	£14.61	+49
Bumetanide tabs 1mg 28	£1.07	+18	£2.09	+48
Amitriptyline tabs 10mg 28	£0.53	+152	£0.74	+38
Paracetamol tabs 500mg 16	£0.13	±0	£0.23	+38

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.17	-6	£0.34	-37
Trimethoprim tabs 200mg 6	£0.82	-29	£1.24	-30
Macrogol sachets S/F 30	£2.65	-4	£4.01	-23
Temazepam tabs 10mg 500	£34.86	-9	£86.44	-22
Pregabalin caps 75mg 56	£1.75	-37	£6.19	-21
Macrogol sachets S/F 20	£2.04	+8	£2.75	-20

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 March 2016		
	January	February	March
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	133	132	110
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	127	116	101
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	109	102	95
Atorvastatin tabs 40mg 28	130	114	94
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	113	96	93
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	106	101	90
Bisoprolol tabs 2.5mg 28	96	104	87
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	103	108	87
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	101	91	86
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	94	100	86

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Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125. E-mail: cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk.

