

Category M newcomers now 'fast movers'

Three products have been added to the 'fast movers' table in line with changes to April's Drug Tariff of pharmacy reimbursement prices. They are 30-tablet packs of entacapone 200mg, 28-tablet packs of rabeprazole 10mg and 56-tablet packs of riluzole 50mg (see Figure 1). These had been moved by the UK Department of Health to the tariff's category M, which is based on actual trade prices in the marketplace.

Three of the oldest products in the table – six-tablet packs of sumatriptan 100mg, 30-tablet packs of glimepiride 4mg and 28-capsule packs of lansoprazole 30mg – have been removed to make way for the newcomers. However, they have been added to the overall basket of commonly-dispensed generics.

Of those 'biggest risers' in Figure 3, only 28-tablet packs of indapamide 2.5mg were given the department's 'no cheaper stock

obtainable' (NCSO) concession in April. This allowed pharmacists and dispensing doctors to dispense, and be reimbursed for, a more expensive alternative. Although the average price of the product only increased by 74% in April, it had topped the table in March with a rise of 866%.

Many products, however, were granted price concessions above their Drug Tariff prices for the second or third month running. These were hydralazine 50mg, isosorbide 10mg, nabumetone 500mg, naftidrofuryl 100mg, temazepam 10mg and 20mg, and trazadone 50mg, 100mg and 150mg. Late in April, the department also granted price concessions to sertraline 50mg and 100mg. The Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee said to pharmacists: "Where contractors are unable to purchase products at the set prices, they may wish to challenge suppliers for an explanation of why their prices are so high." **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Rabeprazole tabs 20mg 28	£2.65	-39	£3.81	-47
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.52	-4	£1.30	-43
Trandolapril caps 1mg 28	£0.97	±0	£1.58	-30
Betahistine tabs 8mg 84	£1.10	+1	£1.72	-29
Ibandronic acid tabs 50mg 28	£8.35	±0	£25.14	-29
Zolmitriptan tabs 5mg 6	£0.79	-8	£2.95	-28

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Isosorbide tabs 20mg 56	£1.75	+17	£19.09	+239
Glibenclamide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.13	+8	£1.47	+157
Isosorbide tabs 40mg 56	£1.85	+7	£23.10	+121
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£7.80	+1,119	£14.73	+116
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£3.99	+303	£26.53	+84
Indapamide tabs 2.5mg 56	£0.78	+3	£28.49	+74

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 March 2013 and 1-24 April 2013 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 16 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 March

2013 and 1-24 April 2013 in lowest and average UK trade prices of about 748 commonly-dispensed generics. The basket specifically excludes the 'fast movers' shown below, but includes other presentations of the same products. Each average price was calculated from at least 13 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.12	-3	£5.32	±0
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£1.03	+13	£1.32	-15
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.62	-3	£0.84	-10
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.24	±0	£2.19	+3
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£0.95	+19	£2.71	-9
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£1.23	-15	£1.74	-10
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.95	+3	£1.15	±0
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£1.48	+49	£2.38	-15
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.60	-3	£2.32	-16
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.40	+1	£1.91	-4
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£7.20	-5	£8.36	-2
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£5.25	±0	£6.47	-10
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£3.55	-1	£5.33	-21
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.63	+2	£0.97	+2
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.73	-17	£1.31	-7
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£1.05	+8	£1.89	+9
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.64	±0	£0.98	-8
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.85	-6	£1.34	-8
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£1.29	-20	£2.87	-13
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.52	-2	£0.80	-8
Mirtazapine orodisp. tabs 45mg 30	£1.29	+2	£1.84	+1
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£5.49	±0	£7.01	+1
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.86	-15	£1.74	-15
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.88	-1	£1.32	-4
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.55	-4	£0.86	-7

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Perindopril tabs 4mg 30	£0.74	+1	£0.95	-7
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.89	+19	£1.37	-19
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.35	-12	£2.67	-14
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.84	±0	£1.25	-14
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£2.37	-5	£2.83	-26
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£47.90	-17	£61.04	-19
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.33	±0	£0.63	+8
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.66	-4	£1.22	±0
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£1.19	+13	£1.52	±0
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£2.49	±0	£3.48	-15
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.80	+7	£1.49	-1
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£0.73	-14	£1.33	-12
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.85	+4	£1.72	-4
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.64	±0	£2.26	-1
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.45	-4	£1.20	-28

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