

Double-digit increase in atorvastatin prices

Double-digit price changes were rare amongst recently-launched generics last month, although there was a notable rise in the average price of 28-tablet packs of atorvastatin 20mg. The 12% increase to £0.80 (US\$1.22) came despite one supplier dropping the lowest available trade price by 9% to £0.43 (see Figure 1).

Similarly, the average price for four-tablet packs of sildenafil 100mg rose by 15% to £0.75, but one supplier was content to maintain the lowest-price offer at £0.31. This contrasted with the trade prices for six-tablet packs of zolmitriptan 2.5mg whose average rose by 11% to £1.10, possibly because the lowest price available was raised by 60% to £0.67. This was in contrast to the average price for 12-tablet packs of the same strength falling by 16% to £2.00 – just outside the steepest falls in Figure 3 – as the lowest price dropped by 13% to £0.73.

Heaviest price faller continued for another month to be aripiprazole,

which featured in Figures 1 and 3. In Figure 1, the average price for 28-tablet packs of the 10mg strength fell by 23% to £25.73. The majority of suppliers, however, still have some way to go before they match the lowest price offer recorded by WaveData of £11.65 for the 10mg strength, virtually unchanged during September.

Elsewhere, cimetidine was again notable among the biggest price risers (see Figure 2). Three strengths featured in August, but this time the 800mg presentation was absent, leaving the 200mg and 400mg strengths among the leaders. Not every supplier raised their prices for the 200mg strength, but the message seemed to have hit home for all of the 400mg suppliers with a stratospheric rise in the lowest cimetidine price.

Omeprazole maintained its leading position in Figure 4 as the fast-moving generic most heavily featured among suppliers' price lists and offers to independent pharmacies and dispensing doctors. **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amorolfine lacquer 5% 5ml	£3.95	+9	£6.21	+8
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£11.65	+1	£25.73	-23
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.43	-9	£0.80	+12
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.38	+9	£0.66	+6
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.85	+1	£2.11	-7
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.99	±0	£7.79	-1
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£7.25	+4	£9.76	+2
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.38	-8	£2.73	+3
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£4.01	-5	£5.13	+1
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£14.99	-12	£26.39	-9
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.26	-7	£0.86	+7
Hydroxychloroquine tabs 200mg 60	£2.80	+1	£3.86	+2
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.35	-3	£0.74	+2
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.53	-9	£1.31	+5
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.89	-1	£1.47	+4
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£1.01	-14	£1.45	-2
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.55	+12	£1.10	-1
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.09	-4	£1.59	+1
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.93	-15	£4.84	-1
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£13.75	-1	£24.35	+9
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.85	±0	£2.32	±0
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.31	±0	£0.75	+15
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.77	±0	£1.76	+2
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.45	+1	£2.32	+7
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.67	+60	£1.10	+11

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Celiprolol tabs 200mg 28	£3.05	-2	£14.90	+306
Cimetidine tabs 200mg 60	£0.39	+3	£2.76	+104
Ibuprofen tabs 400mg 250	£2.84	+8	£9.03	+79
Cimetidine tabs 400mg 60	£5.65	+966	£6.09	+47
Oxybutynin tabs 2.5mg 84	£0.95	-4	£2.31	+43
Clindamycin caps 150mg 24	£3.39	+7	£12.36	+39

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 30mg 28	£22.45	-6	£44.25	-36
Trimethoprim tabs 100mg 28	£1.08	-10	£3.03	-27
Aripiprazole tabs 15mg 28	£11.65	-6	£25.29	-26
Metformin tabs 500mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.42	-26
Aripiprazole tabs 5mg 28	£11.65	-10	£25.67	-26
Baclofen tabs 10mg 84	£1.50	-12	£3.22	-17

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 23 September		
	July	August	September
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	109	101	83
Phenytoin tabs 100mg 28	85	72	78
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	98	90	77
Atorvastatin tabs 40mg 28	87	74	74
Naproxen tabs 500mg 28	78	77	73
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	88	82	73
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	76	68	72
Warfarin tabs 3mg 28	83	72	72
Allopurinol tabs 300mg 28	79	64	71
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	81	72	71

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 August and 1-23 September 2015 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 24 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 August and 1-23 September 2015. Averages calculated from at least 11 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 23 September). 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).

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