

Lercanidipine leaps lead to concessions

Trade prices for lercanidipine 10mg and 20mg tablets increasing by as much as seven times in November led the UK's Department of Health to grant a price concession for the lower strength and maintain October's concession for the higher. Such concessions are granted when market prices exceed those in the Drug Tariff.

Average and lowest trade prices for lercanidipine 10mg tablets almost quadrupled to £7.22 (US\$10.79) and increased by almost seven times to £4.10 respectively (see Figure 2), leading the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) to grant a pharmacy price concession of £6.25. At the same time, the average and lowest prices for the 20mg strength rose by more than four times and five times respectively – to £10.52 and £4.10 – leading the PSNC to maintain its concession price of £9.85 from October (*Generics bulletin*, 6 November 2015, page 23). Concessions were also granted for ferrous sulphate 200mg tablets and procyclidine 5mg tablets.

Meanwhile, aripirazole prices continued the decline of the past few months (*Generics bulletin*, 11 September 2015, page 23), with the average market price of the 10mg strength falling by 45% to £11.19 (see Figure 1) and the 15mg and 30mg strengths seeing drops of more than a third (see Figure 2).

Eplerenone 25mg tablets also continued to follow the falling trend that has been seen since they were moved to category M of the Drug Tariff in July (*Generics bulletin*, 20 November 2015, page 23), with average and lowest prices falling by a third to £15.18 and a quarter to £8.35 respectively. Duloxetine 30mg also saw double-digit falls in both its average and lowest trade prices, as did pregabalin (see Figure 3).

Omeprazole continued to dominate the fastest-moving products with 132 offers in November (see Figure 4), while statin offers ramped up with simvastatin and atorvastatin each registering more than 120 offers during the month. **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amorolfine lacquer 5% 5ml	£4.65	+14	£6.72	+7
Aripirazole tabs 10mg 28	£4.25	-37	£11.19	-45
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.47	-2	£0.88	+8
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.35	-5	£0.64	+3
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.68	-1	£1.82	+10
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£2.61	-1	£6.45	-2
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£6.56	-4	£9.12	±0
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.34	-1	£2.57	±0
Duloxetine E/C caps 30mg 28	£6.79	-25	£11.95	-16
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£3.80	-1	£5.40	+5
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£8.35	-24	£15.18	-32
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.18	±0	£0.77	+1
Hydroxychloroquine tabs 200mg 60	£2.42	-12	£3.65	±0
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.41	+24	£0.70	+2
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.47	+57	£1.17	-2
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.80	+1	£1.60	+9
Oxcarbazepine tabs 300mg 50	£4.80	-6	£6.89	-34
Rabepirazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.92	-2	£1.51	-2
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.80	±0	£4.56	±0
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£13.20	-1	£23.97	+5
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.82	±0	£2.19	+12
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£79.00	-15	£109.27	-1
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.27	-7	£0.55	-6
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.77	+1	£1.58	+11
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.42	-5	£2.30	+2

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lercanidipine tabs 20mg 28	£4.10	+413	£10.52	+346
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£4.10	+595	£7.22	+279
Ferrous Sulphate tabs 200mg 1,000	£3.45	-4	£80.88	+182
Procyclidine tabs 5mg 500	£95.50	+479	£219.85	+94
Ampicillin caps 250mg 28	£1.29	+34	£3.21	+76
Indoramin tabs 20mg 60	£7.44	+31	£12.52	+67

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pramipexole tabs 350µg 100	£1.15	+11	£11.08	-51
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£0.75	-3	£1.42	-38
Aripirazole tabs 15mg 28	£4.25	-37	£11.61	-38
Aripirazole tabs 30mg 28	£8.49	-23	£22.81	-34
Metoprolol tabs 100mg 56	£1.49	±0	£3.20	-33
Pregabalin caps 25mg 56	£6.25	-22	£19.51	-32

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 30 November		
	September	October	November
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	138	142	132
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	112	121	127
Atorvastatin tabs 40mg 28	102	116	122
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	115	124	115
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	105	108	115
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	100	89	112
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	93	109	110
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	103	122	108
Tramadol caps 50mg 100	107	105	108
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	106	105	107

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 October and 1-30 November 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 38 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 October and 1-30 November 2015. Averages calculated from at least 24 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 30 November). 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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