

Memantine drops below 90% discount line

Double-digit price falls were apparent among our 'fast movers' this month, including bicalutamide 50mg, desloratadine 5mg, memantine 10mg and rizatriptan 10mg (see Figure 1). Both memantine and rizatriptan were added to category M of the Drug Tariff of pharmacy reimbursement prices in January, having been launched in May and August last year.

Drops of nearly a third in both the lowest and average prices of 28-tablet packs of memantine 10mg during February represented sharp declines from the previously gradual downward drift that started at a trade price of £69.01 (US\$114.91) for Lundbeck's Ebixa Alzheimer's disease brand (**Generics bulletin**, 3 February 2014, page 21). Despite the relative lack of pricing pressure in the six months after launch, the lowest trade price for the generic of £6.50 now offers more than

a 90% discount to the brand. The average price offers an 83% discount.

Rizatriptan's trade prices had been volatile since launch, recovering after steep early falls in the first few months. However, February's price declines have taken the lowest price for three 10mg tablets to £1.48, just short of the 90% discount mark. The generic's average price has fallen sharply to £4.31, although this is still only a 68% price discount to the £13.37 trade price of Merck, Sharp and Dohme's Maxalt brand. Elsewhere, topiramate's lowest price almost doubled.

Indapamide prices settled down after some recent upward hikes (see Figure 2); while 100-tablet packs of mebeverine 135mg – topping the table in Figure 3 – were granted a monthly price concession, allowing pharmacists to claim £18.00 for dispensing them. Propranolol 80mg in 56-tablet packs was also granted a price concession of £6.50. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Indapamide tabs 2.5mg 56	£2.30	±0	£5.91	-54
Indapamide tabs 2.5mg 28	£1.28	-15	£2.35	-51
Aspirin disp tabs 300mg 32	£0.17	+6	£0.34	-42
Nystatin susp 100k iu 30ml	£1.66	+4	£3.49	-41
Aspirin disp tabs 75mg 1000	£1.42	±0	£2.86	-41
Aspirin disp tabs 300mg 100	£0.45	±0	£1.05	-34

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Mebeverine tabs 135mg 100	£4.49	+16	£11.48	+79
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.72	+14	£1.59	+57
Metformin tabs 500mg 28	£0.24	+26	£0.53	+53
Propranolol tabs 80mg 56	£0.80	±0	£6.13	+45
Diclofenac tabs 25mg 28	£0.56	+27	£0.75	+36
Hydroxocobalamin 1mg/ml 5	£3.15	+29	£4.81	+35

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 January 2014 and 1-24 February 2014 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 32 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31

January 2013 and 1-24 February 2014 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 23 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£1.09	-6	£1.69	-12
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.52	+6	£0.87	+13
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£0.99	-21	£2.33	-29
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£0.83	±0	£2.00	-4
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.72	±0	£1.08	-9
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£1.02	-2	£1.29	-5
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£8.49	-4	£11.16	-4
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.45	-29	£0.94	-1
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.87	±0	£1.49	+4
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.17	-2	£1.87	-6
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£5.99	+7	£6.89	+2
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£2.89	±0	£4.45	-9
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£2.94	+11	£5.52	+4
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.67	±0	£1.04	-2
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.54	±0	£0.82	±0
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.85	+15	£1.47	+4
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.69	-10	£1.10	-3
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£1.15	-3	£1.59	+1
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£2.05	+5	£4.28	+26
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.52	+6	£0.93	±0
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£6.50	-30	£12.07	-32
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.15	-4	£1.68	-7
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£8.89	-4	£11.83	+1
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.61	±0	£1.34	-9
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.71	±0	£1.15	-7

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.36	±0	£0.68	-6
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.50	+28	£0.94	-7
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.61	±0	£2.78	-4
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.45	-2	£1.03	-3
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.05	+6	£1.76	-3
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£7.83	+1	£11.69	-6
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£29.08	±0	£41.49	-10
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.45	±0	£0.75	-1
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£1.48	-1	£4.31	-41
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.43	-7	£0.74	-11
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.69	-1	£3.07	+2
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£1.99	+91	£2.54	±0
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.86	±0	£1.87	+9
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.65	-6	£2.28	-1
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.44	+2	£0.97	-6

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