

# Memantine prices take another tumble

Memantine prices took another tumble in October, with the average price of 28-tablet packs of memantine 10mg dropping by more than a fifth (see Figure 1). The lowest price available fell less quickly by 13%, indicating that more than one supplier was discounting. Prices for bulkier supplies of the same product declined even faster, with the average price for 56-tablet packs sinking by nearly a third to £8.02 (US\$12.85). Prices for 28-tablet packs of memantine 10mg sank by nearly a fifth in September (*Generics bulletin*, 3 October 2014, page 23).

Interestingly, it would have been cheaper on average for pharmacists and dispensing doctors to have bought two of the smaller packs rather than the larger; while three packs of 28 tablets at the lowest price of £1.26 were much cheaper than the lowest 56-pack price of £4.45 (see Figure 4). In any event, with a Drug Tariff reimbursement price of £4.89 for the 28-tablet pack, pharmacists' dispensing margin

was 26% on average, and possibly as high as 74%. Given a trade price of £34.50 for Lundbeck's Ebixa original, the average generic price has fallen by 90%, while the lowest generic price has dropped by 96%.

Lowest and average prices for raloxifene 60mg also fell in October, while bargains could be found for candesartan 8mg, desloratadine 5mg and rizatriptan 10mg. Average prices for escitalopram 10mg slumped.

Fluoxetine was exciting a lot of activity in the trade last month as suppliers made numerous price offers to independent UK pharmacists, breaking up the usual dominance of omeprazole, lansoprazole and simvastatin (see Figure 2). This extra interest, however, was not reflected in substantial price rises (see Figure 3).

Dispensing doctors, unlike community pharmacists, are not able to benefit from concessionary prices, as was incorrectly stated in a previous issue (*Generics bulletin*, 3 October 2014, page 23). **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amorolfine lacquer 5% 5ml	£3.79	-4	£6.50	-1
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.50	-4	£0.89	+2
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.35	-15	£0.84	-5
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£10.99	-8	£19.32	-1
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£7.97	±0	£11.33	+1
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.42	-13	£0.95	+6
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.80	±0	£2.74	+2
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.66	-4	£1.21	+1
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£4.99	-4	£5.80	+3
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.69	-8	£1.24	-25
Hydroxychloroquine tabs 200mg 60	£3.30	-3	£4.18	+1
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.49	+7	£0.77	-2
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.99	+4	£1.75	+4
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£1.26	-13	£3.60	-21
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.05	±0	£1.63	+4
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£1.25	+15	£1.52	+7
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.47	-4	£1.03	-1
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.30	-3	£1.90	+3
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£4.10	-13	£7.13	-15
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£17.99	+9	£28.31	-10
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.72	-24	£2.54	-9
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.39	-5	£0.71	+2
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£1.00	+1	£1.99	+17
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.69	+10	£2.50	-1
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.42	±0	£0.94	+1

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 22 October		
	August	September	October
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	146	143	80
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	105	103	68
Atorvastatin tabs 40mg 28	101	93	67
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	132	116	66
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	116	104	66
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	110	105	62
Warfarin tabs 1mg 28	111	95	62
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	81	81	61
Ibuprofen tabs 400mg 84	89	77	61
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	131	115	60

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Dipyridamole tabs 100mg 84	£2.87	+5	£5.73	+60
Valsartan/HCT tabs 80/12.5mg 28	£1.09	±0	£3.41	+56
Valsartan/HCT tabs 160/25mg 28	£1.99	±0	£4.35	+38
Glycerin suppositories 4g 12	£0.50	±0	£1.19	+37
Zolmitriptan OD tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.49	±0	£1.41	+29
Betamethasone valerate 0.1% 30g	£1.23	+9	£2.24	+27

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Memantine tabs 10mg 56	£4.45	-5	£8.02	-32
Nystatin susp 100000iu 30ml	£1.26	-7	£1.83	-30
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.69	-3	£1.24	-25
Venlafaxine XL caps 150mg 28	£1.69	±0	£3.54	-23
Escitalopram tabs 20mg 28	£1.25	±0	£1.94	-23
Galantamine XL caps 8mg 28	£4.50	+6	£6.00	-18

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 September and 1-22 October 2014 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): Ranking of fastest-moving products subject to the most price offers made to independent UK pharmacists (one strength per ingredient; offers recorded by 22 October). Figure 3 (centre right) and Figure 4 (bottom right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 September and 1-22 October 2014. Averages calculated from at least 18 data points. 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 3 and 4 (Source – WaveData).

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

