

Olanzapine rises have field to themselves

Olanzapine dominated this column last month (*Generics bulletin*, 16 June 2017, page 12) and its dramatic price increases continued to monopolise the rankings in June.

Despite a sharp fall in prices of our representative product basket last month – a double-digit decline in the Price Watch Index to just 66.9 (*Generics bulletin*, 7 July 2017, page 8) – prices of olanzapine in numerous presentations continued to rise in unprecedented multiples (see Figure 2). WaveData pointed out that olanzapine was not only responsible for the top-five highest price rises, as shown, it also took seventh, eighth and ninth spots as well as places 11 to 13. Only quetiapine’s price rises featured alongside olanzapine in the top 14.

Price concessions were granted in June by the Department of Health for six strengths of the antipsychotic from 2.5mg to 20mg. These concessionary prices for dispensing olanzapine ranged between £16.95 (US\$21.88) and £127.12, considerably more than the already highly-

inflated average trade prices being reported by independent pharmacists to WaveData. Quetiapine was not on the list of price concessions.

Elsewhere, an apparently one-off May price offer for montelukast 10mg tablets was not seen in June (see Figure 1); while rizatriptan 10mg tablets were the subject of a big price hike from AAH at the beginning of the month, followed by a price update from Numark on 7 June, which pushed up the average price. Trade prices for aripiprazole tablets continued to fall in June, with the 9% decline in average price for Figure 1’s 10mg strength eclipsed by the 45% average price slide of the 30mg strength in Figure 3.

The recent interest in hydrocortisone 10mg tabs appears to have subsided as the main proton-pump inhibitors and statins attracted the most trade price offers in June (see Figure 4). Hydrocortisone 10mg tablets were second only to omeprazole 20mg caps in April, and third behind atorvastatin 20mg tablets and omeprazole in May. **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.67	+5	£0.97	-9
Benzylamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.80	-1	£5.48	-3
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£41.99	-1	£49.37	-7
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.90	+1	£1.31	-4
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£2.09	±0	£3.75	+2
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.94	+14	£7.10	±0
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.14	-1	£1.67	-9
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£0.94	+6	£1.63	+8
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£3.09	-3	£3.99	-8
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£3.14	+5	£3.87	+2
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.35	+3	£0.67	-8
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£6.75	-10	£9.32	-6
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.57	±0	£0.89	-9
Mometasone furoate 0.1% 30g	£1.15	±0	£1.59	-5
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.79	+108	£1.09	-8
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£20.99	+8	£31.81	-6
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£11.80	-19	£19.85	-14
Oxcarbazepine tabs 300mg 50	£4.68	-2	£5.80	-2
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.60	±0	£0.87	-9
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.20	±0	£2.89	-8
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£0.85	+2	£1.82	+2
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.81	+7	£3.48	+142
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£25.49	+2	£35.28	-6
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.24	+4	£0.38	-17
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.88	-11	£1.39	-4

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine o/d tabs 20mg 28	£1.69	+22	£25.65	+1025
Olanzapine o/d tabs 15mg 28	£1.10	+1	£18.59	+956
Olanzapine o/d tabs 10mg 28	£0.99	+25	£13.24	+839
Olanzapine o/d tabs 5mg 28	£0.83	+22	£9.89	+775
Olanzapine tabs 7.5mg 28	£0.75	±0	£30.84	+764
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.55	+41	£5.69	+629

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Phenytoin caps 100mg 84	£7.99	-13	£13.44	-66
Piroxicam caps 20mg 28	£1.10	±0	£2.24	-49
Cyanocobalamin tabs 50µg 50	£0.18	±0	£1.34	-49
Tramadol SR tabs 100mg 60	£1.72	+1	£3.37	-46
Aripiprazole tabs 30mg 28	£1.10	±0	£3.79	-45
Isosorbide mononitrate tabs 40mg 28	£2.22	-1	£4.54	-44

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 30 June 2017		
	April	May	June
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	160	174	134
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	144	180	130
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	124	147	124
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	124	144	121
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	124	151	119
Hydrocortisone tabs 10mg 30	148	166	116
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	85	97	115
Cetirizine tabs 10mg 30	115	125	109
Amitriptyline tab 10mg 28	89	111	106
Beclometasone spray 50µg 1 (200)	85	126	106

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 May 2017 and 1-30 June 2017 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 35 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 May 2017 and 1-30 June 2017. Averages calculated from at least 25 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 June). 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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Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125. E-mail: cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk.

