

Pregabalin and zolmitriptan prices take off

Average prices for recently-launched generics were relatively stable in December, with only two products – eplerenone and rizatriptan – showing double-digit changes (see Figure 1). But two older products – pregabalin and zolmitriptan – experienced massive average price rises in December of many times their November levels (see Figure 2). The gains were so huge that a 253% monthly average price rise was not enough to qualify pregabalin 100mg for our ‘biggest risers’ list.

Two six-tablet versions of zolmitriptan 2.5mg – standard and orodispersible, sugar-free tablets – were granted monthly price concessions by the Department of Health to ensure that pharmacists were reimbursed a profitable amount. The price concession for the orodispersible presentation was £23.99 (US\$29.11), considerably more than the average price of £7.07 recorded by WaveData. However, the

concession of £13.70 for six standard tablets was comparable with the average price of £16.24 for the 12-tablet presentation. Pregabalin had not been granted any monthly price concessions by 22 December.

Five strengths of ropinirole were granted price concessions in December, but the average price of at least one of them – 12-tablet packs of ropinirole 0.25mg – was starting rapidly to fall in December (see Figure 3). Nevertheless, the price concession of £5.70 for the product agreed closely with its average price of £5.47.

Pharmacists were tempted in December by an unusually large number of price offers for one-capsule packs of fluconazole 150mg (see Figure 4). Meanwhile, the flurry of offers for omeprazole during October and November subsided somewhat in December, leaving atorvastatin as the most heavily promoted product as the year ended. **G**

| RECENT LAUNCHES | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Lowest price | Change (%) | Average price | Change (%) |
| Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28 | £0.53 | -21 | £1.16 | +2 |
| Benzydamine 0.15% 300ml | £4.64 | -5 | £5.87 | +4 |
| Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100 | £51.68 | -1 | £64.71 | +4 |
| Celecoxib caps 200mg 30 | £0.83 | -2 | £1.46 | +3 |
| Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56 | £2.09 | ±0 | £3.61 | +4 |
| Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100 | £5.31 | ±0 | £7.44 | -2 |
| Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84 | £1.21 | ±0 | £1.78 | -2 |
| Duloxetine caps 30mg 28 | £0.88 | +10 | £1.97 | +2 |
| Entacapone tabs 200mg 30 | £3.16 | -11 | £5.14 | -1 |
| Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28 | £2.80 | -3 | £4.77 | +13 |
| Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28 | £0.26 | +4 | £0.80 | +7 |
| Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6 | £8.39 | -3 | £10.88 | +3 |
| Memantine tabs 10mg 28 | £0.60 | +18 | £1.03 | +1 |
| Mometasone furoate 0.1% 30g | £1.24 | +2 | £2.06 | -5 |
| Montelukast tabs 10mg 28 | £0.97 | -5 | £1.58 | -6 |
| Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100 | £25.64 | +5 | £36.73 | ±0 |
| Oxcarbazepine tabs 300mg 50 | £4.41 | -10 | £6.02 | ±0 |
| Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28 | £0.67 | ±0 | £1.18 | +8 |
| Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28 | £2.52 | -1 | £3.39 | +2 |
| Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28 | £1.24 | -8 | £4.57 | ±0 |
| Riluzole tabs 50mg 56 | £10.33 | -2 | £15.14 | -1 |
| Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3 | £0.75 | ±0 | £1.32 | -11 |
| Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180 | £29.00 | -19 | £58.46 | +5 |
| Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4 | £0.23 | ±0 | £0.51 | +6 |
| Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28 | £1.10 | +18 | £1.73 | -5 |

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 November 2016 and 1-31 December 2016 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 27 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 November 2016 and 1-31 December 2016. Averages calculated from at least 12 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 31 December). 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).

| BIGGEST RISERS | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Lowest price | Change (%) | Average price | Change (%) |
| Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 12 | £1.90 | +21 | £16.24 | +571 |
| Zolmitriptan o/d tabs 2.5mg 6 | £0.80 | +5 | £7.07 | +494 |
| Pregabalin caps 25mg 56 | £1.03 | +11 | £15.67 | +325 |
| Pregabalin caps 25mg 84 | £1.99 | +15 | £30.79 | +307 |
| Pregabalin caps 75mg 56 | £1.49 | +51 | £15.53 | +295 |
| Pregabalin caps 50mg 84 | £1.29 | -16 | £24.52 | +294 |

| BIGGEST FALLERS | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Lowest price | Change (%) | Average price | Change (%) |
| Ropinirole tabs 0.25mg 12 | £3.23 | -7 | £5.47 | -23 |
| Loprazolam tabs 1mg 28 | £2.16 | -33 | £4.45 | -20 |
| Levetiracetam 100mg/ml 300ml | £3.79 | -11 | £4.73 | -20 |
| Ramipril tabs 5mg 28 | £0.44 | +26 | £0.94 | -18 |
| Ramipril tabs 10mg 28 | £0.47 | -15 | £0.96 | -15 |
| Bicalutamide tabs 150mg 28 | £3.29 | +8 | £5.68 | -14 |

| FAST MOVERS | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Price offers as at 31 December 2016 | | |
| | October | November | December |
| Atorvastatin tabs 10mg 28 | 105 | 85 | 103 |
| Fluconazole caps 150mg 1 | 70 | 60 | 102 |
| Omeprazole caps 20mg 28 | 146 | 155 | 101 |
| Phenytoin tabs 100mg 28 | 75 | 59 | 98 |
| Hypromellose eye drops 0.3% 10ml | 66 | 55 | 96 |
| Chloramphenicol eye oint. 1% 4g | 69 | 48 | 93 |
| Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 28 | 85 | 77 | 92 |
| Mycophenolate caps 250mg 100 | 62 | 48 | 91 |
| Hydrocortisone tabs 10mg 30 | 101 | 95 | 91 |
| Co-codamol tabs 8mg/500mg 100 | 86 | 76 | 90 |

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