

Pregabalin continues to create precedents

Pregabalin continues to create precedents in the UK, following its recent history with ‘carved out’ indications. The authority NHS England advised in June that pharmacists could dispense pregabalin for treating “any condition” from 17 July. Its colleagues in the Department of Health responded by putting pregabalin in category M of the Drug Tariff of reimbursement prices from 1 August, an unusually rapid step, especially one month into a new quarterly Drug Tariff.

Previously, pregabalin had been in category C, which meant that pharmacists were reimbursed at the trade price of the brand originator, Pfizer’s Lyrica. Moreover, ordered by a court, NHS England had insisted that pregabalin prescriptions for neuropathic pain should be limited to Lyrica (**Generics bulletin**, 13 March 2015, page 19). The same court also pronounced that six key claims of Pfizer’s method-of-use patent were invalid for insufficiency, a decision that was upheld on appeal (**Generics bulletin**, 21 October 2016, page 11).

Pregabalin’s move to category M has seen it included in Figure 1 at the expense of mometasone furoate cream, launched in November 2012. What was highly unusual, however, was the effect on pregabalin’s trade price. Although the Drug Tariff price of pregabalin 150mg capsules was slashed from £64.40 (US\$84.03) in July to £2.29 in August, the product’s average trade price responded by increasing by 20% to £14.93. Moreover, its lowest price, which had been less than half the new Drug Tariff price, increased by 232% to a higher figure of £3.35.

Such volatility immediately obliged the authorities to grant pharmacists a price concession of £19.95 on the same product they had only just listed at £2.29, almost certainly the fastest U-turn on record. Other concessions were granted to rizatriptan 10mg (see Figure 1), as well as anastrozole 1mg, gabapentin 300mg and terbinafine 250mg (see Figure 2). Olanzapine 7.5mg in Figure 3 was also still on the monthly concession list that has now stretched to almost 50 products long. **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.78	+16	£1.15	+11
Benzydamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.80	±0	£5.36	-1
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£38.99	±0	£44.04	-2
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.85	-2	£1.25	-1
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.15	+51	£3.65	-4
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.48	+4	£6.74	-2
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.29	+12	£2.15	+25
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£1.16	+6	£2.76	+28
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£2.69	-10	£3.65	+1
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£3.57	+18	£4.54	+13
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.35	±0	£0.76	+3
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£7.35	+1	£8.50	-4
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.56	+12	£0.84	+1
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.75	±0	£1.03	-6
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£17.65	-12	£25.16	-8
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£6.35	-36	£14.07	-17
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£3.35	+232	£14.93	+20
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.67	+16	£0.82	+1
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.05	+7	£2.79	+6
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£0.55	±0	£10.27	+22
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£7.49	+802	£9.82	+34
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£24.50	-4	£29.89	-6
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.24	-4	£0.37	±0
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.87	+1	£1.24	-3
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£7.20	-26	£21.69	-17

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.28	+62	£10.37	+452
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 28	£1.98	+58	£20.01	+357
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.79	+88	£5.92	+342
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£1.85	+28	£8.68	+231
Risperidone o/d tabs 4mg 28	£7.95	±0	£34.38	+146
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.39	+105	£1.10	+144

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Rivastigmine 2mg/ml 120ml	£39.99	+8	£47.38	-41
Torasemide tabs 10mg 28	£8.09	+17	£9.36	-39
Torasemide tabs 5mg 28	£5.49	+18	£7.10	-37
Olanzapine tabs 7.5mg 28	£15.98	-21	£27.87	-30
Tetracycline tabs 250mg 28	£0.88	-6	£1.18	-26
Felodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.42	±0	£0.73	-26

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 August 2017		
	June	July	August
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	146	134	144
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	133	133	128
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	129	125	127
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	141	127	122
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	121	120	115
Levothyroxine tabs 25µg 28	106	101	114
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	109	113	112
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	112	117	110
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	104	98	106
Amitriptyline tabs 10mg 28	112	103	105

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 July 2017 and 1-31 August 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 30 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 July 2017 and 1-31 August 2017. Averages calculated from at least 17 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 August). 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).

WANT MORE LIKE THIS?

Up to the minute live retail market pricing is available for the UK and Eire on Wavedata Live at wavedata.net.

Alternatively, contact Charles Joynson at WaveData Limited, UK.

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

