

Pregabalin price falls a fifth in February

Average and minimum UK trade prices for pregabalin 150mg capsules experienced double-digit declines in February, according to the latest figures reported by WaveData. The epilepsy, pain and anxiety treatment saw its average price fall by a fifth to £5.95 (US\$8.26) as the cheapest available offer dropped by 14% to £2.57 (see Figure 1).

The downwards movement on pregabalin comes ahead of an imminent UK Supreme Court decision that will decide whether Pfizer's UK usage patent for the Lyrica pregabalin brand covering neuropathic pain was correctly ruled to be invalid (*Generics bulletin*, 9 March 2018, page 10).

Despite the 20% average drop registered by WaveData, pregabalin 150mg capsules nevertheless appeared on the list of price concessions offered by the UK's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in February, with the £3.44 concession price exceeding the lowest

offer but falling short of the average. Other presentations of pregabalin – 50mg and 200mg capsules – also appeared on the list, which covered more than 30 molecules or combinations in more than 50 presentations.

Irbesartan tablets that featured on the DHSC concessions list – in 75mg and 300mg tablet forms – reflected the trend in our list of 'biggest risers'. A concession price of £6.95 for the 300mg strength more than matched the market average that more than trebled to £5.89 (see Figure 2), while the £3.01 concession for 75mg comfortably exceeded the average that rose by 154% to £2.06 in February.

Quetiapine tablets topped our list of 'biggest fallers', with an average price drop of more than two-fifths (see Figure 3). And in Figure 4, simvastatin, omeprazole and lansoprazole saw the most offers in the market, leapfrogging January leader atorvastatin (*Generics bulletin*, 16 February 2018, page 12).

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£2.87	+139	£4.62	-9
Benzydamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.75	+48	£5.27	+2
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£31.00	-8	£36.21	-4
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.80	+5	£1.13	-6
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.01	-8	£3.86	-4
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.10	-2	£5.96	-3
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.80	-8	£2.26	-3
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£2.50	-17	£4.13	-16
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£2.53	±0	£3.15	-5
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£4.10	±0	£17.84	-26
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.49	±0	£0.84	+9
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£4.99	+1	£6.48	-11
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.54	-2	£0.79	-8
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.62	-10	£0.89	-5
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£8.50	-11	£13.87	-13
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£3.29	-12	£8.11	-21
Olmесartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.89	-6	£1.36	-6
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£2.57	-14	£5.95	-20
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.26	±0	£2.82	-1
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£0.95	-4	£3.10	-28
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£4.79	-20	£8.24	-23
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£22.39	±0	£25.49	-3
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.23	-4	£0.39	-11
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.90	-8	£1.42	±0
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£4.35	-4	£8.76	-39

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 January 2018 and 1-28 February 2018 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 26 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 January 2018 and 1-28 February 2018. Averages calculated from at least 13 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 28 February). 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 (%)
Irbesartan tabs 300mg 28	£1.26	±0	£5.89	+253
Irbesartan tabs 150mg 28	£0.83	±0	£3.98	+243
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.56	±0	£2.06	+154
Buprenorphine tabs 8mg 7	£0.99	±0	£3.71	+103
Haloperidol tabs 5mg 28	£1.82	±0	£7.15	+45
Flurbiprofen tabs 50mg 100	£25.50	+5	£38.39	+40

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£2.50	-36	£6.45	-42
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£1.75	-27	£4.17	-39
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£2.49	-13	£3.98	-36
Losartan tabs 12.5mg 28	£2.92	-2	£3.61	-35
Levetiracetam S/F 100mg/ml 300ml	£5.60	+4	£9.63	-34
Amlodipine besilate tabs 5mg 28	£0.45	-57	£1.15	-34

FAST MOVERS				
Price offers as at 28 February 2018				
Product/Strength/Pack size	December	January	February	
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	88	140	116	
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	85	140	116	
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	82	132	114	
Atorvastatin tabs 40mg 28	86	151	108	
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	82	116	107	
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	81	124	105	
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	89	136	104	
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	60	124	103	
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	69	108	103	
Levothyroxine tabs 100µg 28	71	111	103	

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