

Quetiapine rises take over from olanzapine

Quetiapine was not on the list of price concessions to pharmacists in June. Pharmacists were not compensated for dispensing products whose prices had risen far above those in the Drug Tariff of reimbursement prices. All the talk was of olanzapine, whose June price increases dominated Figure 2 last month, reaching over 1,000% in the case of olanzapine 20mg (**Generics bulletin**, 14 July 2017, page 14).

But quetiapine was quietly entering the picture. Most of the top 10 price rises in June were of olanzapine, but quetiapine filled the other places, with quetiapine 25mg featuring at the foot of our rankings with an increase of 629%.

June was just the beginning. Price rises for two quetiapine strengths – 100mg and 200mg – burst through the 1,000% barrier in July (see Figure 2). All five standard quetiapine strengths were among the top

eight price increases, sharing the limelight with levetiracetam.

Both ingredients featured in the list of price concessions for June, but were not always high enough, according to WaveData. While quetiapine 150mg had an average trade price of £77.76 (US\$102.93) in July, pharmacists would have been reimbursed just £72.00. At the other end of the scale, pharmacists would have enjoyed a dispensing margin of 13% for dispensing quetiapine 300mg. They would also have made handsome returns on levetiracetam of over 50%.

Elsewhere, the authorities picked up rizatriptan's average price rise of 110% in the price concessions, but not rasagiline's increase of 363% (see Figure 1). Price falls were relatively modest in July (see Figure 3), while omeprazole and atorvastatin continued to be the staples of trade price lists (see Figure 4).

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.67	±0	£1.04	+7
Benzydamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.80	±0	£5.41	-1
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£39.00	-7	£44.99	-9
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.87	-3	£1.26	-4
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£2.09	±0	£3.81	+2
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.29	-11	£6.89	-3
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.15	+1	£1.72	+3
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£1.09	+16	£2.16	+33
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£2.98	-4	£3.62	-9
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£3.03	-4	£4.03	+4
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.35	±0	£0.74	+10
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£7.25	+7	£8.89	-5
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.50	-12	£0.83	-7
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.75	-5	£1.09	±0
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£19.99	-5	£27.26	-14
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£9.95	-16	£17.04	-14
Mometasone furoate 0.1% 30g	£1.15	±0	£1.67	+5
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.58	-3	£0.81	-7
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£1.91	-13	£2.62	-9
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£0.55	-35	£8.42	+363
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.83	+2	£7.31	+110
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£25.49	±0	£31.72	-10
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.25	+4	£0.37	-3
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.86	-2	£1.28	-8
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£9.75	-11	£26.25	-24

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Quetiapine tabs 100mg 60	£18.27	+1,435	£83.53	+1,211
Quetiapine tabs 200mg 60	£51.00	+2,613	£85.94	+1,190
Quetiapine tabs 300mg 60	£3.99	+72	£118.73	+925
Quetiapine tabs 150mg 60	£51.00	+2,972	£77.76	+651
Levetiracetam tabs 750mg 60	£3.49	+11	£31.20	+549
Levetiracetam tabs 1g 60	£3.82	±0	£39.65	+506

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Isosorbide tabs 40mg 56	£0.70	-3	£1.27	-49
Enalapril/HCTZ tabs 20mg/12.5mg 28	£1.35	±0	£3.14	-44
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.24	+9	£0.56	-40
Valsartan/HCTZ tabs 80mg/12.5mg 28	£0.77	-16	£1.53	-38
Isosorbide tabs 20mg 56	£0.50	-9	£1.09	-37
Moclobemide tabs 150mg 30	£1.65	-2	£3.83	-37

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 July 2017		
	May	June	July
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	176	140	122
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	182	138	117
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	144	108	116
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	146	128	115
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	148	131	114
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	153	124	111
Cetirizine tabs 10mg 30	127	114	110
Paracetamol caplets 500mg 100	112	104	110
Bisoprolol fumarate tabs 2.5mg 28	132	102	108
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	127	104	106

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 June 2017 and 1-31 July 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 1-30 June 2017 and 1-31 July 2017. Averages calculated from at least 40 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 July). 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.

