

# Topiramate tops December UK price rises

Topiramate tablets in four strengths topped the December 2017 list for the fastest-rising UK trade prices, according to the latest figures provided by WaveData. The 60-tablet packs of 25mg, 50mg, 100mg and 200mg tablets experienced average price leaps of between 148% and 419%, despite the cheapest available prices seeing only double-digit increases (see Figure 2).

The anticonvulsant featured on the list of price concessions for December authorised by the UK's Department of Health (DoH). The 25mg strength's concession price of £4.90 (US\$6.79) was not quite enough to match the average of £5.34, while the £14.00 concession for the 100mg presentation also fell short of the £18.52 average.

However, the concession price of £18.11 for the 50mg tablets comfortably exceeded the £9.69 average recorded by WaveData, while the 200mg strength was not granted a concession in December.

Felodipine modified-release tablets in 5mg and 10mg strengths – which saw average increases of 79% to £4.98 and of 82% to £6.52 respectively – were also not featured on the list of concessions. The UK Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) noted that the DoH's list was still not fully adequate to compensate independent pharmacists, with many concessions “lower than we had sought” (*Generics bulletin*, 19 January 2018, page 9).

Elsewhere, aripiprazole 10mg tablets saw the largest average shift among our recent launches, as the average price for a 28-count pack rose by 19% to £5.29 (see Figure 1).

Meanwhile, sertraline 50mg tablets in 28-tablet packs saw their average price drop by three-fifths (see Figure 3). Also featured were mycophenolate 250mg capsules that almost halved in price, while gamolenic acid capsules in two strengths dropped by around two-fifths. **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.00	-11	£5.29	+19
Benzydamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.69	±0	£5.40	+1
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£34.20	-5	£38.66	-3
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.82	+1	£1.22	-8
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.33	+6	£4.14	+1
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.20	-4	£6.48	-5
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.99	+2	£2.48	-7
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£4.12	+40	£6.40	-4
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£2.64	+15	£3.46	+2
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£4.10	±0	£30.39	-8
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.57	+54	£0.81	±0
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£5.95	-10	£7.68	-4
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.55	-7	£0.90	-5
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.75	+3	£0.95	-15
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£12.49	-7	£19.03	±0
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£3.95	-12	£10.86	+9
Olmесartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.90	+1	£1.40	+3
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£3.25	±0	£7.76	+2
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.26	+46	£2.92	+4
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£1.58	+13	£5.79	-11
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£6.77	-10	£10.75	-8
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£23.99	+12	£26.81	-12
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.24	±0	£0.41	-5
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.88	±0	£1.46	-6
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£5.24	-5	£15.82	-4

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Topiramate tabs 100mg 60	£2.17	+40	£18.52	+419
Topiramate tabs 50mg 60	£1.27	+35	£9.69	+314
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£1.17	+18	£5.34	+197
Topiramate tabs 200mg 60	£4.60	+62	£19.60	+148
Felodipine MR tabs 10mg 28	£4.79	+384	£6.52	+82
Felodipine MR tabs 5mg 28	£3.99	+387	£4.98	+79

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.40	-5	£0.65	-60
Mycophenolate caps 250mg 100	£4.65	-1	£10.99	-47
Gamolenic acid caps 80mg 120	£3.49	±0	£8.01	-41
Gamolenic acid caps 40mg 240	£3.49	±0	£8.28	-39
Ampicillin caps 250mg 28	£4.28	-5	£5.97	-35
Ciprofibrate tabs 100mg 28	£8.50	±0	£21.09	-33

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 December 2017		
	October	November	December
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	98	84	73
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	91	95	71
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	102	97	71
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	100	118	70
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	111	118	69
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	97	112	68
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	98	110	67
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	103	106	64
Bisoprolol fumarate tabs 2.5mg 28	93	93	64
Tamsulosin MR caps 400µg 30	86	83	63

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 November 2017 and 1-31 December 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 17 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 November 2017 and 1-31 December 2017. 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 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).

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