

# Turbulent times had by launches in April

No new names were added to the Recent Launches in April with the latest quarterly changes to category M of the Drug Tariff. Nevertheless, last month saw some turbulence in the table with numerous double-digit price increases and decreases during the month, particularly in average prices (see Figure 1).

Rasagiline prices continued their decline such that independent pharmacists could purchase generics of Teva's Azilect at less than £0.03 (US\$0.04) per tablet. Prices for nefopam and nortriptyline slumped nearly as fast during the month, although pharmacists still enjoyed an average dispensing profit margin of 24% on 90-tablet packs of nefopam 30mg – £11.30 per pack – and 18% on 100-tablet packs of nortriptyline 10mg, or £5.39. Average aripiprazole prices fell just as fast, despite at least one supplier withdrawing the lowest price on offer in March, making the best deal 17% more expensive.

Only two products among those with fast-rising prices in April were also among the 18 or so ingredients with a price concession from the Department of Health. Pharmacists were compensated with £8.50 for dispensing 30-tablet packs of pramipexole 88µg in April to cover an average trade price that had risen by 213% to £5.57 (see Figure 2). Three strengths of valsartan were granted price concessions, but only 28-capsule packs of valsartan 160mg were among our biggest risers. An average trade price of £15.12 was easily covered by a concessionary price of £17.25. Interestingly, valsartan 160mg combinations with 25mg of hydrochlorothiazide just failed to be included in our table with a 36% average trade price rise.

Prices for fluoxetine 60mg capsules were among the biggest fallers in Figure 3 and there continued to be an unusual amount of interest in hydrocortisone 10mg tablets in the trade (see Figure 4). **G**

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.63	+17	£1.01	-21
Benzylamine 0.15% 300ml	£4.89	+1	£5.63	±0
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£43.80	±0	£53.51	-5
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.85	±0	£1.32	-7
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£2.99	+43	£3.80	+4
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£5.20	-4	£6.42	-19
Desogestrel tabs 75µg 84	£1.14	±0	£1.57	-14
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£0.89	-3	£1.53	-12
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£3.29	+4	£4.33	-2
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£2.90	-3	£3.70	-14
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.34	±0	£0.71	-11
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£7.80	-2	£9.87	±0
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.53	-10	£1.01	+1
Mometasone furoate 0.1% 30g	£1.15	+2	£1.80	-6
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.79	-7	£1.19	-16
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£20.90	-20	£36.50	-19
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£16.49	-15	£24.50	-17
Oxcarbazepine tabs 300mg 50	£4.75	±0	£5.84	-5
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£0.60	-2	£0.93	-10
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.20	-8	£3.16	-9
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£0.79	-20	£1.77	-30
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£0.74	±0	£1.15	-30
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£25.00	-4	£38.32	-3
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.22	-8	£0.45	-18
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£1.00	+5	£1.57	-2

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Mefenamic acid tabs 500mg 28	£4.45	±0	£20.12	+237
Pramipexole tabs 88µg 30	£0.50	+4	£5.57	+213
Valsartan caps 160mg 28	£9.89	+195	£15.12	+75
Isosorbide mononitrate tabs 40mg 28	£2.22	-2	£7.64	+69
Amoxicillin caps 250mg 500	£6.99	±0	£16.08	+43
Sodium cromoglicate drops 13.5ml	£1.45	+7	£2.76	+41

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Paracetamol tabs 500mg 100	£0.42	+8	£0.49	-62
Fluoxetine caps 60mg 30	£2.50	-11	£4.32	-54
Memantine o/s 10mg/ml 100ml	£19.08	-17	£41.84	-39
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.32	±0	£1.82	-37
Pioglitazone tabs 45mg 28	£0.49	-8	£0.98	-37
Trimethoprim tabs 200mg 14	£0.18	-5	£0.43	-35

FAST MOVERS			
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 30 April 2017		
	February	March	April
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	133	180	133
Hydrocortisone tabs 10mg 30	105	145	132
Atorvastatin tabs 80mg 28	86	128	109
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	105	139	107
Chloramphenicol ointment 1% 4g	63	83	104
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	108	151	103
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	105	150	103
Phenytoin tabs 100mg 28	64	94	102
Fluconazole caps 150mg 1	56	108	102
Lorazepam tabs 1mg 28	56	69	99

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-31 March 2017 and 1-30 April 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 43 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-31 March 2017 and 1-30 April 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 30 April). 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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