

# UK's DHSC acts on lamotrigine increases


Increases in average UK trade prices for lamotrigine tablets observed by WaveData in May provoked an immediate response from the country's Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in the form of price concessions, according to the latest update from the UK Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC). However, in some cases the concessions failed to match average prices.

Average price increases of as much as 984% were seen for 56-tablet packs of lamotrigine in May (see Figure 2). A concession of £23.47 (US\$31.52) offered by the DHSC for the 200mg strength fell short of the £30.24 average trade price recorded by WaveData, although the £24.09 concession for the 100mg tablets exceeded the average that jumped by 827% to £17.70. Similarly, while the £6.42 concession for the 50mg strength was slightly below the average trade price that increased by 393% to £6.90, the £5.55 concession for

25mg tablets compensated for an average up by 332% to £5.06.

PSNC director of pharmacy funding Mike Dent said supply and pricing issues were continuing to put "enormous and unreasonable pressure on community pharmacy contractors". "We are disappointed that once again this month the DHSC has imposed prices on a number of lines at lower levels than the PSNC had sought," he stated.

Among recent launches, double-digit average price drops were seen for several molecules in May (see Figure 1), while citalopram 40mg tablets, olanzapine 20mg tablets and rosuvastatin 10mg tablets led the biggest fallers (see Figure 3).

Omeprazole continued to feature highly among those molecules that were subject to the most price offers (see Figure 4), although the number of offers in general was reduced compared to March and April, possibly due to the presence of two UK public holidays in May. 

RECENT LAUNCHES				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aripiprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.49	+1	£2.69	-18
Carbimazole tabs 5mg 100	£27.32	-6	£34.23	-5
Celecoxib caps 200mg 30	£0.75	-3	£1.17	-9
Cilostazol tabs 100mg 56	£3.25	-1	£3.84	-2
Duloxetine caps 30mg 28	£1.59	-8	£3.13	-13
Eplerenone tabs 25mg 28	£3.61	±0	£8.30	-23
Escitalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.46	-6	£0.78	-8
Etoricoxib tabs 90mg 28	£2.22	+6	£3.31	-25
Frovatriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£3.99	-19	£5.72	-5
Memantine tabs 10mg 28	£0.55	±0	£0.77	-5
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£0.59	-5	£0.90	-7
Nefopam tabs 30mg 90	£6.80	-3	£12.01	-17
Nortriptyline tabs 10mg 100	£1.25	-37	£6.40	-19
Olmesartan tabs 10mg 28	£0.79	-1	£1.36	-1
Pregabalin caps 150mg 56	£2.25	-10	£4.00	-8
Raloxifene tabs 60mg 28	£2.26	±0	£2.95	-1
Rasagiline tabs 1mg 28	£0.99	±0	£2.44	-12
Rizatriptan tabs 10mg 3	£4.59	+8	£7.29	-11
Rosuvastatin tabs 5mg 28	£0.79	±0	£1.53	-31
Sevelamer tabs 800mg 180	£19.95	-11	£25.38	-4
Sildenafil tabs 100mg 4	£0.28	+4	£0.47	±0
Tadalafil tabs 10mg 4	£0.99	-16	£1.71	-38
Telmisartan tabs 80mg 28	£0.85	±0	£1.21	-12
Travoprost drops 40µg/ml 2.5ml	£3.35	-6	£5.40	-13
Zonisamide caps 100mg 56	£3.72	-1	£7.27	-8

Figure 1 (above): Comparison between the periods 1-30 April 2018 and 1-31 May 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 31 data points. Figure 2 (top right) and Figure 3 (centre right): Biggest average trade-price changes between 1-30 April 2018 and 1-31 May 2018. Averages calculated from at least 22 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 May). 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 (%)
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£1.89	+22	£30.24	+984
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.44	+64	£17.70	+827
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.87	+47	£6.90	+393
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£0.53	+20	£5.06	+332
Amisulpride tabs 50mg 60	£1.10	+11	£5.56	+239
Rivastigmine caps 1.5mg 56	£3.15	±0	£10.65	+178

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.49	-6	£1.03	-38
Olanzapine tabs 20mg 28	£1.98	-27	£11.31	-35
Rosuvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.79	±0	£1.47	-35
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£2.91	-27	£8.97	-33
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£4.39	-11	£9.69	-32
Olanzapine tabs 10mg 28	£1.49	-29	£6.46	-32

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Price offers as at 31 May 2018			
	March	April	May	
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	159	150	127	
Atorvastatin tabs 40mg 28	130	151	122	
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	138	147	121	
Cetirizine tabs 10mg 30	88	104	112	
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	145	129	112	
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	127	141	105	
Amitriptyline tabs 10mg 28	108	111	104	
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	118	104	99	
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	123	127	99	
Levothyroxine tabs 100µg 28	103	110	99	

## 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](http://wavedata.net).

Alternatively, contact Charles Joyson at WaveData Limited, UK.  
Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125. E-mail: [cjoyson@wavedata.co.uk](mailto:cjoyson@wavedata.co.uk).

