

# Risperidone rises suggest stock shortages

UK trade prices for risperidone are in the spotlight this month, after uncharacteristic rises that have seen generic prices for the antipsychotic climb above a level that had previously been holding steady for years. This, according to UK pricing specialist WaveData, is indicative of a shortage issue, which may well persist beyond August.

“Risperdal Tabs – made by Janssen-Cilag – lost their patent exclusivity in December 2007, which caused prices to decline dramatically over the following six months,” WaveData points out. As Figures 1-4 show, “generic prices have maintained a more or less low level ever since, with anything over £2.00 (US\$2.60) being exceptional”.

“However, in August prices for all packs started rising, with suppliers talking about shortages,” WaveData observes (**Generics bulletin**, 31 August 2018, page 19). This was followed by ‘no cheaper stock obtainable’ (NCSO) concession prices being granted by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) across several presentations of risperidone, “suggesting suppliers and manufacturers aren’t out of the woods yet”.

In August, according to WaveData’s calculations, six presentations of risperidone were among the generic presentations with the steepest rises in their average UK trade price, ranging between 67% and 197%.

The latter relates to risperidone 2mg tablets in 60-count packs that saw their average trade price almost treble to £4.18 in August, despite the cheapest offer in the market rising by just 17% to £1.02. The same pack size of risperidone 1mg tablets saw an average increase of 153% to £2.96, again despite the lowest available price in the market climbing by just 11% to £0.49. And 60-tablet packs of the 3mg strength cost an average of 140% more in August than in July at £3.97, as the cheapest price jumped by a tenth to £0.99.

Almost doubling in price were 60-count packs of risperidone 4mg tablets and packs of 20 risperidone 0.5mg tablets, to £3.81 and £1.63 respectively. This was despite the lowest price in the market actually declining in both cases – by 12% to £1.10 for the 4mg tablets and by 19% to £0.21 for the 0.5mg tablets. And 28-count packs of risperidone 6mg tablets experienced an average jump of 67% to £2.60 as the cheapest offer rose by 18% to £1.10.

All averages were calculated on the basis of at least 17, and for most presentations around 30, data points.

These rises prompted five presentations of risperidone tablets to be added to the list of price concessions granted by the DHSC to pharmacists in August. “Along with the increases in the market prices of these products,” WaveData observes, “this suggests a shortage issue.”

The concessions offered by the DHSC exceeded WaveData’s average prices in all five cases. For 3mg and 4mg tablets in 60-count packs, the £13.85 and £14.02 concession prices were comfortably higher than the £3.97 and £3.81 averages, while for the same pack size of 2mg tablets the £6.00 concession was almost a third higher than WaveData’s £4.18 average. And for 20-tablet packs of the 0.5mg strength, the £1.90 concession again came in higher than the £1.63 average.

However, for Figure 1 – which otherwise reflects price data for 60-tablet packs of risperidone 1mg tablets – the price concession data point is based on the concession granted for a 20-count pack of 1mg risperidone tablets. “The 1mg 20-pack was granted a £3.95 concession,” WaveData explains, “so in the graph we have multiplied this concession price by three to fit with the rest of the data for the 1mg 60-pack”, resulting in an £11.85 concession price that corresponds to a £2.96 average in the market.

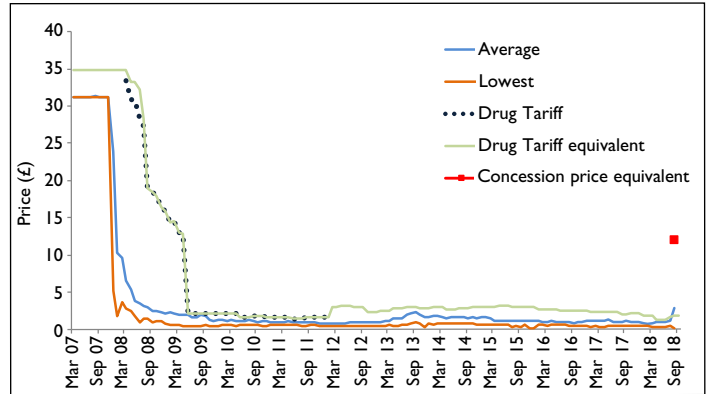


Figure 1: UK trade prices for 60-tablet packs of risperidone 1mg tablets (Source – WaveData)

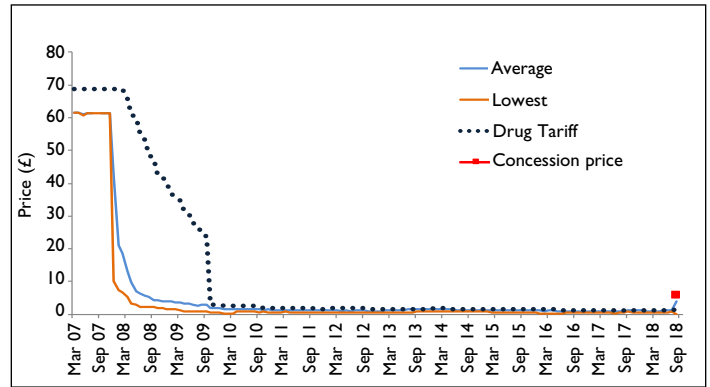


Figure 2: UK trade prices for 60-tablet packs of risperidone 2mg tablets (Source – WaveData)

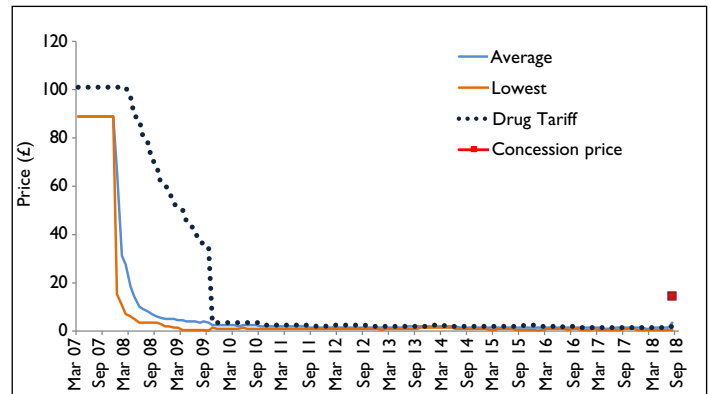


Figure 3: UK trade prices for 60-tablet packs of risperidone 3mg tablets (Source – WaveData)

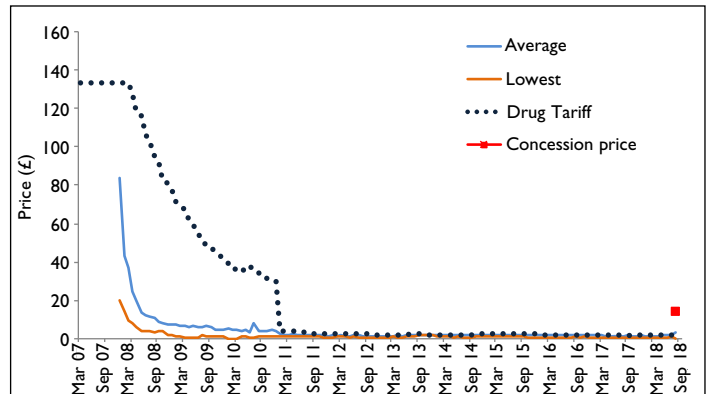


Figure 4: UK trade prices for 60-tablet packs of risperidone 4mg tablets (Source – WaveData)

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 Joynson at WaveData Limited, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125. E-mail: [cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk](mailto:cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk).

