



January 2014

In contrast to last quarter, prices increases outnumber the decreases and while the overall effect is difficult to judge, it is probably neutral.

Gastro-intestinal system (BNF Chapter 1)

Starting with PPIs and mixed fortunes here: most PPIs are down but omeprazole and pantoprazole are up, though increases are slight. In alphabetical order, new prices with changes for the main PPIs are: esomeprazole 20mg tablets 4.82 (-9%), 40mg tablets 5.43 (-17% [again]), lansoprazole 15mg capsules 1.20 (unchanged), 30 mg capsules 1.61 (-3p), omeprazole 20mg capsules 1.26 (+1p), 40mg capsules 1.22 (+2p), 20mg tablets 6.22 (+10%), 40mg tablets 3.04 (-11%), pantoprazole 20mg tablets 1.20 (+2p), 40mg tablets 1.60 (+4p), rabeprazole 10mg tablets 2.28 (down another 13%) and rabeprazole 20mg tablets 3.04 (-4p). Other changes are that esomeprazole 20mg capsules are 5.30 with 40mg capsules being 6.57 and lansoprazole 30mg orodispersible tablets are down 2p to 5.38. Ranitidine tablets are up about 5% so 150mg tablets now 1.96 and 300mg tablets are 1.63. The 75mg/5ml oral solution is up 18p to 7.79 but both strengths of effervescent tablets are up around 30% to around £18 per pack. Senna 7.5mg tablets have gone up again, this time by 25% to 12.64

Cardiovascular system (BNF Chapter 2)

Chapter 2. Bendroflumethiazide 2.5mg tablets are unchanged at 82p while 5mg tablets are up just a penny at 88p. Furosemide 40mg tablets are unchanged [82p] but bumetanide 1mg tablets are up 11% to 1.29. On the other hand, indapamide 2.5mg tablets have completely reversed last quarter's large increase by dropping 72% to 3.88. Beta blockers and atenolol 50mg tablets are up 11p [13%] to 95p and 100mg are up by more than 25% to 1.12. Higher strengths of bisoprolol are unchanged but higher strength carvedilol is up with 12.5mg tablets rising 6% to 1.37 and 25mg tablets rising 10% to 1.55. Amlodipine is down slightly: 5mg tablets by 1p to 96p and 10mg down 2p to 1.02. After last quarter's large increases, isosorbide mononitrate has partially dropped back: 10mg by 35% to 8.09, 20mg by 46% to 7.84 and 40mg by 20% to 12.89. On the other hand Category A dinitrate tablets have risen about 1% to 13.09 for 10mg and 14.08 for 20mg. Glyceril trinitrate 500mcg tablets are up 4% to 2.11 but doxazosin 4mg tablets are down by the same percentage to 1.09. Another alphabetical run through ACE inhibitors gives: enalapril 10mg 1.07 (+1p), 20mg 1.10 (-2p), lisinopril 10mg 1.11 (+4p), 20mg 1.15 [unchanged], perindopril 4mg 1.51 (-4p), 8mg 1.65 (+1p), ramipril 5mg

1

With thanks to Birmingham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group for providing the complete summary of all Part VIII changes.

Andrew Martin Senior Strategic Pharmacist Greater Manchester CSU

capsules 1.22 (+2p), 10mg capsules 1.30 (also +2p), 5mg tablets 1.28 (-1p) and 10mg tablets 1.45 (-10p). More large movements with fosinopril: 10mg up 88% to 2.54 and 20mg down 57% to 2.57 - that looks like the sort of prices that would be sensible to settle around but who knows? Angiotensin II antagonists and candesartan is mainly down so new prices are 4mg (7 pack only!) 89p (-3%), 8mg 1.72 (-7%), 16mg 2.12 (-5%) and 32mg 3.05 (unchanged). Irbesartan is also down and like candesartan, by smaller amounts than last time. New prices are: 75mg tablets 1.45 (-8%), 150mg tablets 1.67 (-7%) and 300mg 2.29 (-6%). Losartan is also mainly down but changes are little more than pennies so 50mg tablets 1.21, 100mg tablets 1.37, 50/12.5 tablets 1.66 and 100/25 tablets 2.01. And again the Category A 100/12.5 combination rises a few pennies - now 15.99. Valsartan is almost all down and prices for the higher strengths are 80mg capsules 1.89 (-6%), 160mg capsules 2.58 (+1%), 160/12.5 combination 2.69 (unchanged) and 160/25 combination is much more expensive at 13.00 (-5%). Also perhaps worth mentioning is a 320mg valsartan tablet at 14.75. Antiplatelets and aspirin 75mg dispersible are unchanged at 80p and clopidogrel 75mg is up 3p to 1.74. Statins in alphabetical order give atorvastatin 10mg at 1.13 (-3%), 20mg 1.41 (-4%), 40mg 1.63 (-4%), 80mg 2.73 (-7%), pravastatin 40mg 1.77 (-1p), simvastatin 20mg 92p (-3%), 40mg 1.17 (+1p) and 80mg 2.02 (+4p). Mentioned last time, ciprofibrate 100mg tablets are now 72.87 and nebivolol 2.5mg tablets are 68.50 with 5mg at just 1.83

Respiratory system (BNF Chapter 3)

Some moving around of montelukast prices so new prices are [all sugar-free]: 4mg chewable tablets 2.21 (-6%), 4mg granules sachets 4.02 (+4%), 5mg chewable tablets 2.37 (-11%) and 10mg chewable tablets 2.52 (-10%). Non-sedating antihistamines and cetirizine 10mg tablets are down 2p to 1.02, desloratadine 5mg tablets are down a further 15% to 1.73 and loratadine 10mg tablets are up a penny to 1.06. No change in trajectory for salbutamol tablets: 2mg now 64.67 and 4mg now 66.09

Central nervous system (BNF Chapter 4)

Some small reductions for temazepam: 10mg tablets down 14% to 23.77 and 20mg tablets down a further 7% to 22.61. Antipsychotics and plain olanzapine preparations have risen this quarter: 10, 15 and 20mg tablets are now 1.67 (+5%), 2.14 (+8%) and 2.43 (+5%). Prices for the respective orodispersible sugar-free versions [Category A, falling each month] are 12.35, 17.77 and 23.93. Quetiapine may be close to its floor as this quarter's reductions are slight so the new prices for 25, 100, 200 and 300mg are 1.61 (-9%), 2.66 (-8%), 3.24 (-<1%) and 5.07 (-2%). Plain risperidone tablets have risen, in some cases substantially: 2,3 and 4mg tablets now 2.06 (+37%), 2.35 (+13%) and 2.26 (+4%). Category A orodispersible versions are little changed at a considerable premium. Antidepressants: citalopram 20mg is up just a penny at 96p and 40mg is up 2p to 1.11. Fluoxetine 20mg is up 8p to 1.10 and 60mg is down 6% to 33.90. Sertraline falls again so 50mg nearly halves in price to 3.26 and 100mg drops by a quarter to 5.78. Mirtazapine 30mg has

2

With thanks to Birmingham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group for providing the complete summary of all Part VIII changes.

Andrew Martin Senior Strategic Pharmacist Greater Manchester CSU

dropped 11% to 1.75 and 45mg has fallen 8% to 2.44. Orodispersible equivalents are 1.66 (-4%) and 2.32 (-2%) . Anti-epileptics: some variation with higher strengths of lamotrigine as 100mg is up 16% to 2.47 and 200mg is down 2% to 3.77 . Levetiracetam drops again and new prices for 500 and 750mg are 2.54 (-14%) and 4.03 (-5%), both in packs of 60. In contrast, higher strengths of topiramate have increased: 100mg tablets by 8% to 3.16 and 200mg by 1% to 15.73 . The large discrepancy between prices of lower strength tablets and capsules continues: 25mg capsules are up 6% to 16.49, 25mg tablets are down 8% to 2.77, 50mg capsules are up slightly to 41.13 and 50mg tablets are up 26% to 3.11 . After last quarter's decreases, gabapentin is all up so 300mg capsules now 4.49 (+43%), 400mg capsules 4.77 (+19%), 600mg tablets 10.37 (+8%) and 800mg tablets 35.52 (again barely changed). Analgesics. Paracetamol tablets are up just a penny to 89p (32 pack) with capsules unchanged at 1.23 . Co-codamol changes are very slight with the exception of an 18% increase in price for 8/500 capsules which rise to 2.21 per 32. 5HT-1 agonists and the big news here is the entry of rizatriptan into Category M with a price drop of 88% to 1.58 for a pack of 3. Other prices in this area are: naratriptan down 6% to 1.87 [6 pack], sumatriptan 50mg tablets down 7% to 1.55, 100mg tablets down 5% to 1.90, zolmitriptan plain 2.5mg is down 7% to 1.42, dispersible 2.5mg is down 4% to 1.74 and 5mg dispersible is down 1% to 12.88 . Antiparkinson's drug entacapone 200mg is up 12% to 7.40 . Anticholinesterases. Plain forms of donepezil are up so 5mg by 2% to 1.31 and 10mg by 10% to 1.71. However, the orodispersible equivalents are down so 5mg by 2% to 12.74 and 10mg by 3% to 16.75 . All capsule forms of rivastigmine have fallen with new prices for 1.5mg, 3mg, 4.5mg and 6mg being 4.38 (-27%), 4.44 (-27%) 17.86 (-1%) and 17.62 (negligible decrease). In this area of drugs used for dementia, memantine tablets enter Category M. 10mg have dropped 80% [after a 10% fall in December when moving from Category C to A] to 12.43 but the price reduction for 20mg is only 38% to 42.27 [28 pack]. Orlistat is down 2% to 30.43 . The 10 pack of ondansetron 4mg tablets increases 5% to 1.88 but a similar pack of 8mg is at 35.05

Infections (BNF Chapter 5)

Some changes for commonly used lines: 21 amoxicillin 250mg capsules up 2% to 1.46 and the same number of 500mg capsules also up 2% to 1.65 . Co-amoxiclav 250/125 tablets fall 4% to 2.18 . 28 erythromycin 250mg tablets fall 5% to 1.74 while the capsules are barely changed at 23.15 . Clarithromycin 250mg tablets are slightly up at 1.90 and 500mg tablets fall 3% to 2.74 . Oxytetracycline 250mg tablets drop 2% to 1.21 and tetracycline 250mg tablets fall 13% to 3.03 . Trimethoprim 200mg tablets are up a penny to 99p [14 pack] and nitrofurantoin 50mg tablets have entered Category M with a decrease of 26% to 28.26 yet Category A 100mg tablets are just 6.53 [28 packs for both]. Antivirals and plain aciclovir 800mg tablets are up 1% to 4.81 with the dispersible version down a few pennies to 8.65 . After last quarter's significant reduction, 400mg aciclovir [56 pack] rises 11% to 4.89 . Famciclovir [Category A] is little changed at 192.62 for fourteen 500mg tablets and valaciclovir

500mg tablets are up 3% to 6.86 for 10. The 14 pack of terbinafine 250mg tablets is down 3% to 1.64

Endocrine system (BNF Chapter 6)

A 28 pack of metformin 500mg reverses last quarter's decrease, rising 4p [5%] to 90p and 850mg rises 9% to 1.30 . Gliclazide 80mg is up 2p [2%] to 1.04 . Glimepiride is mainly up: 2, 3 and 4mg now 1.14 [+4%], 5.79 [a small increase] and 1.38 [a small decrease]. Pioglitazone drops even more so 15,30 and 45mg now 1.49 (-9%), 1.92 (-6%) and 2.33 (-3%). Levothyroxine tablets are up with both 50mcg and 100mcg tablets rising 5-6% to 1.96 and 1.95 respectively [yes, 50mcg dearer]. Bisphosphonates and both strengths of alendronic acid are up: 70mg by 2% to 90p and 10mg by less than 1% to 1.38 . Risedronate 35mg tablets have fallen 1% to 1.16 and the single ibandronic acid 150mg tablet has fallen 17% to 3.02. The 28 pack of 50mg tablets rises 5% to 15.54 . Still with osteoporosis treatments, raloxifene has entered Category M with a 17% reduction to 14.15 for 60 tablets. Enteric coated prednisolone 5mg tablets drop again: by 17% to 2.24 and are now almost exactly twice the price of plain which rises 10% to 1.13 . Finasteride 5mg tablets are down 1% to 1.54

Odds n' ends (BNF chapters 7-13)

Chapter 7

Tamsulosin 400mcg capsules are little changed at 5.71 although I note this is up about 15p in 3 months. Oxybutinin 2.5mg and 5mg tablets rise very slightly to 1.97 and 3.17 respectively. Tolterodine falls a little more: 1mg down 5% to 2.94 and 2mg down 9% to 3.07 . Sildenafil also falls a little more so new prices are 1.24 [-5%], 1.41 [-3%] and 1.45 [-6%] for 25,50 and 100mg. Another new Category M entrant here: desogestrel down 41% to 3.91 [84 tablets].

Chapter 8

Anastrozole 1mg tablets have fallen 1% to 1.93, exemestane 25mg tablets are up 1% to 5.44, letrozole 2.5mg tablets are up 8% to 1.76 and tamoxifen 20mg tablets are down 1% to 2.39 . Bicalutamide 50mg is up 10% to 2.59 and 150mg is up 6% to 6.30 . Mycophenolate mofetil 500mg tablets rise a further 4% to 12.77

Chapter 9

Recent Category M entrant alfacalcidol capsules have fallen a little more so prices for 30 packs of 250ng, 500ng and 1mg are 2.80 [-5%], 6.15 [-1%] and 6.43 [-5%]. Not usually mentioned but noticeable for significant price changes, ascorbic acid tablets are up 40-80% depending on strength and sodium feredetate solution [Sytron] has doubled in price to 9.95 for a 500ml bottle.

4

With thanks to Birmingham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group for providing the complete summary of all Part VIII changes.

Andrew Martin Senior Strategic Pharmacist Greater Manchester CSU

Chapter 10

NSAIDs: Ibuprofen 400mg is down 1% to 3.19 for 84 and Category A 600mg are have drifted up 2p over the quarter to 6.91 but diclofenac 50mg tablets remain unchanged at 85p and 28 naproxen 500mg tablets have risen 3% to 1.70 . Leflunomide has fallen again with both strengths down by 3% to 18.35 and 20.68 . Ibuprofen 5% gel is almost unchanged at 4.21 per 100g, ketoprofen 2.5% gel is down 3% to 3.64 and piroxicam 0.5% gel is up 24% to 5.77 for 112g.

Chapter 11

Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops reverse last quarter's change by rising 13% 1.21 . Dorzolamide 2% eye drops are down 4% to 2.31 and the combination with timolol has fallen 8% to 3.26 . Latanoprost 2.5% eye drops are up 1% to 1.99 and its combination with timolol is down 1% to 5.12 . Plain timolol 0.25% drops are up 1% to 1.40 and 0.5% are up 21% to 1.63 . Sodium cromoglicate eye drops are up 5% to 1.61 .

Chapter 12

Beclometasone nasal spray is up 7% to 2.27 .

Chapter 13

Chapter 13. Co-cyprindiol is up another 1% to 5.37, continuing its monthly trend. Aqueous cream is down 2%, falling to 99p per 100g. Hydrocortisone 1% cream is down 1% to 1.12 per 15g but 1% ointment is up 11% to 1.27 per 15g. 2.5% cream and ointment are little changed. Mometasone 0.1% cream is down 4% to 4.14 per 30g, while the ointment is down 14% to 3.24 per 30g. Aciclovir 5% cream is down 7% to 99p per 2g and terbinafine 1% cream is down 8% to 1.89 per 15g.

News from other months

In November 2013, the prices of many Specials in Part VIIB changed.

In December, primidone tablets increased by between two and threefold on moving from Category C to A: the 50mg rose to 29.54 and the 250mg to 35.24 [100 tablets]. Another C to A mover with a near price tripling were isradipine 2.5mg tablets which rose to 37.47 [28 tablets]. On the other hand, the price of levobunolol 0.5% eye drops fell by more than 80% to 1.85 on moving from Category A to C.

This month [February 2014], two changes caught my eye: a 5-fold increase in the price of 100 bromocriptine 1mg tablets to 60.10 [the 2.5mg are already at 61.34] and a 60% increase in the price of chloroquine phosphate 250mg tablets to 3.13 .

With thanks to Birmingham CrossCity Clinical Commissioning Group for providing the complete summary of all Part VIII changes.

Andrew Martin Senior Strategic Pharmacist Greater Manchester CSU