



## July 2013

770 price changes this quarter and it is difficult to make a judgement of the overall effect: I think it may be slightly inflationary as there are more increases than decreases.

### *Gastro-intestinal system (BNF Chapter 1)*

Starting with BNF Chapter one, and following a familiar pattern, rabeprazole which entered Category M last quarter falls again so prices now are 10mg 3.01 (-15%) and 20mg 4.26 (-18%) . The rest of the PPIs in alphabetical order are: esomeprazole 20mg 6.19 (-13%), 40mg 7.94 (-14%), lansoprazole 15mg capsules 1.29 (up just a penny), 30 mg capsules 1.76 (-2p), omeprazole 20mg capsules 1.34 (down a penny), 40mg capsules 1.31 (-6p), 20mg tablets 6.30 (up by the same percentage as they came down last time: 32%), 40mg tablets 2.87 (-30%). Both strengths of pantoprazole [20mg and 40mg] are barely changed, rising by just 1p to 1.24 and 1.62. Ranitidine tablets have come down again but this time it is the 300mg which has the larger drop of 18% to 1.61 while 150mg are down 9% to 1.38 . The 75mg/5ml oral solution is little changed, rising 9p 8.44 . Mentioned last time, senna 7.5mg tablets more than double this quarter, rising 7.83 to 12.01 [60 pack].

### *Cardiovascular system (BNF Chapter 2)*

Bendroflumethiazide 2.5mg and 5mg tablets are mixed: 2.5mg fall 2p to 86p but 5mg rise by 7p to 91p. After last quarter's large increase, furosemide 40mg tablets fall back just 3p to 89p. Bumetanide 1mg tablets have risen 9% to 1.20. Atenolol is up by about 4% so 50mg now 89p and 100mg now 94p. Bisoprolol 5mg tablets are down 8p (7%) to 1.07 and 10mg are down 6% to 1.14 while the higher strengths of carvedilol are unchanged [12.5mg 1.38, 25mg 1.58]. Glyceryl trinitrate 500mcg tablets seem to have stabilised now, rising just 3p to 2.23 . Amlodipine continues its upward trajectory, with 5mg rising around 4% to 1.02 and 10mg rising 2% to 1.09 . Doxazosin 4mg tablets are unchanged [1.22]. ACE inhibitors and enalapril 10mg is up 3p to 1.08, 20mg is up 1p to 1.16, lisinopril 10mg is up 3p to 1.02, 20mg is up 9p to 1.19, perindopril 4mg is down 31p (15%) to 1.72, 8mg is down 26p (12%) to 1.85, ramipril 5mg capsules are up 11p to 1.32, 10mg capsules are up 11p to 1.41, 5mg tablets are up 13p to 1.46 and 10mg tablets are up 5p to 1.63 . Finally,

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some straightening out with fosinopril where 10mg tablets drop 94% to 1.42 and 20mg tablets drop 63% to 2.48 . Angiotensin II antagonists and candesartan is down again so 8mg tablets now 2.34 (-18%) 16mg tablets also down 18% to 2.83 and 32mg tablets are down 12% to 3.88 . Irbesartan has again dropped significantly so 75mg tablets are down 12% to 1.86, 150mg tablets are down 14% to 2.09 and 300mg tablets are down 21% to 2.75 . Losartan 50mg tablets drop 5% to 1.34, 100mg tablets drop 4% to 1.60, the 50/12.5 tablets rise 2% to 1.84 and the 100/25 tablets drop 14% to 2.27 . Final AT-II antagonist valsartan moves around: 80mg down 5% to 2.21, 160mg up 3% to 2.91 and the 160/12.5 combination is up 20% to 3.58 . Antiplatelets and aspirin 75mg dispersible is up again, this time by 2% to 84p but again clopidogrel 75mg is down, by 3% to 1.83 .Statins and atorvastatin now exhibits typical Category M behaviour by only showing price changes on a quarterly basis. The prices for the 4 strengths in ascending order are 1.29 (-3%), 1.60 (-6%), 1.89(-2%) and 3.13 (-10%). Pravastatin 40mg is down 25% to 1.95 while three out of four strengths of simvastatin rise: 10mg by 3% to 90p, 20mg by 2% to 97p, 40mg by 5% to 1.24 although the 80mg drops 8% to 2.44 . Finally in this chapter, a couple of large price increases for lines which have been in short supply: 28 indapamide 2.5mg tablets are now 4.10, and 56 isosorbide mononitrate 10mg tablets are now 7.19, both roughly tripled from last quarter.

### ***Respiratory system (BNF Chapter 3)***

Respiratory and the news here is the entry of montelukast into Category M with the standard 80-90% price reduction. New prices are [all sugar-free]: 4mg chewable tablets 3.03 (-88%), 4mg granules sachets 4.24 (-84%), 5mg chewable tablets 3.16 (-88%) and 10mg chewable tablets 3.16 (-88%). Non-sedating antihistamines and cetirizine 10mg is up 5% to 1.13, desloratadine 5mg is down 27% to 2.62 and loratadine 10mg is up 2% to 1.12 . Salbutamol 2mg and 4mg tablets continue their [monthly!] upward trend with 28x2mg tablets now 48.51, and 28x4mg tablets now 49.46 .

### ***Central nervous system (BNF Chapter 4)***

Starting with temazepam, whose price just keeps on rising: 10mg tablets now 27.08 and 20mg ones 26.33, although these are in the region of the NCSO prices recently granted. Antipsychotics and olanzapine continues to fall so 10, 15 and 20mg tablets are now 1.86 (-13%), 2.75 (-4%) and 3.15 (-16%). Orodispersible sugar-free versions remain in the region of 15-20times more expensive. Quetiapine also drops further and the new prices for 25, 100, 200 and 300mg are 1.99 (-12%), 3.85 (-20%), 4.68 (-16%) and 6.46 (-16%). Plain risperidone tablets move around with new prices for 2,3 and 4mg being 1.57 (-4%), 2.15 (+12%) and 2.32 (+20%). And, unsurprisingly, the very large price differential with orodispersible versions for this drug also continues.... Antidepressants and citalopram 20mg is up a further 7% to 1.03 with 40mg up

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3% to 1.14 . Fluoxetine 20mg is up 12% to 1.07 and 60mg is up 6% to 43.29 . Sertraline has the dubious honour of being the largest riser this quarter: 50mg more than quadruples to 6.54 and 100mg is up nearly 5-fold to 7.71 . This partially reflects the NCSO concession granted throughout last quarter. Plain forms of mirtazapine are up but orodispersible forms are down e.g. 30 and 45mg plain tablets now 1.85 (+14%) and 2.67 (+5%) with the orodispersible equivalents at 1.85 (same as plain, -3%) and 2.27 (down just a penny) . Moving onto anti-epileptics, lamotrigine 100mg is down by 3% to 2.59 but 200mg is up 14% to 4.45 .Levetiracetam has probably just about found its floor with 500mg moving up a few pence to 4.21 and 750mg falling 37p (6%) to 6.24 . This quarter, all topiramate except 25mg capsules is down. Those 25mg capsules are up by 4% to 18.27 but the tablets are down 26% to 2.39, 50mg tablets are 38.97 (barely changed), 50mg capsules are down 24% to 2.74, 100mg tablets are down 6% to 3.16 and Category A 200mg tablets are unchanged at 14.62 . In contrast to last quarter, gabapentin is mainly up, although only slightly. Thus 300mg capsules fall 3% to 3.11, 400mg capsules rise a few pence to 4.53, 600mg tablets rise 3% to 11.50 and 800mg tablets are down 4% to 36.11 . Analgesics. Paracetamol tablets are up 2% to 94p per 32 tablets with capsules down 5% to 1.30 . Co-codamol is all up e.g. a 30 pack of 8/500 tablets by 9% to 1.11 and a similarly sized pack of 30/500 tablets by 5% to 1.48 . 32x8/500 effervescent tablets are up 2% to 2.63 and the 30/500 effervescents are up 2% to 2.93 . 5HT-1 agonists and the 6 pack of naratriptan has fallen a further 12% to 2.45 while sumatriptan is also down, by 4% to 1.62 for 50mg tablets and by 2% to 2.11 for 100mg tablets. No sign in the Tariff of any generic injections. Zolmitriptan dispersible is also down with 2.5mg tablets dropping 5% to 2.27 and 5mg dispersibles dropping just over 15 to 14.93. The 2.5mg plain tablets remain at 1.99 . Entacapone drops another 8% to 9.02 . Anticholinesterases: Although the plain forms of donepezil are up and the orodispersibles are down, the difference remains of the order of 15 fold. Plain 5mg now 1.41 and plain 10mg now 1.73 . Category A rivastigmine continues to fall only slightly, albeit this occurs every month. Prices for 28 capsules of 3, 4.5 and 6mg now 22.79, 22.79 and 19.52 . Finally, a new Category M entrant is orlistat, but its price rises 16% to 36.80 .

### ***Infections (BNF Chapter 5)***

As usual, Chapter 5 prices again move in both directions. 21 amoxicillin 250mg capsules are up 4% to 1.61 and 500mg capsules are up a further 11% to 1.82 . Again, co-amoxiclav falls: 250/125 by 4% to 2.38 . 28 erythromycin 250mg tablets are up 4% to 1.99 and the differential with Category A capsules widened during the last quarter to 10 fold so the latter are now 21.93 . Clarithromycin and 14x250mg tablets have fallen by nearly half to 1.97 although the 500mg tablets are down by just 5% to 3.30 . Oxytetracycline is up 4% to 1.33 while the gap with tetracycline continues to narrow, this dropping 24% to 4.09 . Trimethoprim 200mg tablets are up just a penny to 1.04 . Antivirals and plain aciclovir 800mg are little changed at 5.15 whilst

dispensibles have dropped 8% to 9.13 . As previously, falls for famciclovir are very small in percentage terms. Finally terbinafine rises 4% to 1.91 .

### **Endocrine system (BNF Chapter 6)**

The 28 pack of metformin 500mg is up a further 25 to 90p and 850mg is up 4% to 1.25 . Gliclazide 80mg is up 2% to 1.08 . Only 2mg and 4mg glimepiride have changed this quarter, the former rising 7% to 1.24 and the latter rising 4% to 1.39 . Pioglitazone continues to exhibit substantial percentage falls: 15,30 and 45mg now 2.12 (-26%), 2.77 (-29%) and 3.35 ( -29%).

Levothyroxine tablets are up again: 50mcg tablets by 7% to 1.88 and 100mcg by 9% to 1.89 . Bisphosphonates and alendronic acid 70mg is up 2% to 93p while 10mg tablets fall a penny to 1.44 . Risedronate 35mg tablets have risen a further penny 1p to 1.21 and ibandronic acid has fallen a further 16% to 6.64 for a single tablet of 150mg while the 28 pack of 50mg tablets falls 41% to 22.65 . The gap between plain and enteric coated prednisolone 5mg tablets is now down to 3-fold: plain 1.05 and the latter 3.14 . Finasteride 5mg tablets are down 2% to 1.66 .

### **Odds n' ends (BNF chapters 7-13)**

#### **Chapter 7**

Tamsulosin 400mcg capsules are up 3p to 5.53 but being Category A, these move around by a few pennies each month. Oxybutinin may be nearing its floor: 2.5mg tablets have fallen 14% to 2.11 but 5mg have risen 6% to 3.34 . And tolterodine may have found its floor even more quickly: this quarter 1mg is up 16% to 4.33 and 2mg are up 3% to 4.47.

#### **Chapter 8**

Anastrozole 1mg tablets have risen 3% to £2, exemestane 25mg tablets are down 5% to 7.63, letrozole 2.5mg tablets are up 3% to 1.94 and tamoxifen 20mg tablets are down 4% to 2.50 . Bicalutamide 50mg is down 6% to 2.54 and 150mg is down 2% to 6.73 .

#### **Chapter 10**

NSAIDs: Ibuprofen 400mg is up a further 6% to 3.57 for 84 and 600mg are down 2% to 6.80 . The 28 pack of diclofenac 50mg tablets is up 2% to 92p and 28 naproxen 500mg tablets are down 15% to 1.85 . Leflunomide has

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fallen a little more: 10mg tablets by 6% to 25.29 and 20mg tablets by 12% to 27.66. Ibuprofen 5% gel is down 8% to 4.07 per 100g, 10% gel [Category C] is again unchanged at 5.79 for 100g, ketoprofen 2.5% gel is down 1% to 3.86 per 100g and piroxicam 0.5% gel is up very slightly to 4.95 for 112g.

## **Chapter 11**

Hypromellose 0.3% eye drops are down 3% to 1.17. Dorzolamide 2% eye drops are up 6% to 2.65 but the combination with timolol drops 4% to 3.49 . Latanoprost 2.5% eye drops continue to fall, dropping 18% to 2.22 while that combination with timolol is down 4% to 6.11 . Plain timolol 0.25% drops are up 4% to 1.47 and 0.5% is up just a penny to 1.46 . Sodium cromoglicate eye drops are up 3p to 1.75 .

## **Chapter 12**

Very little to report here: beclometasone nasal spray is up a penny to 2.33 while budesonide nasal spray is still 3.85.

## **Chapter 13**

Skin. Co-cyprindiol is up 2p to 4.98 and this continues to drift up a few pennies each month. Aqueous cream is slightly down, falling to 1.11 per 100g. Hydrocortisone 1% cream is up 3% taking it to 1.19 per 15g and 1% ointment is up 5% to 1.36 per 15g. 2.5% cream is up 2% to 20.84 and 2.5% ointment is up a small amount to 21.57 . Aciclovir 5% cream is up 15% to 1.29 per 2g.