

## Buying benefits when dispensaries get tough

Getting tough with suppliers over prices during the last four months of 2015 has resulted dispensing doctors paying the same for PIs as pharmacists. Aggressive buying has also paid dividends in the generics market with dispensing buyers getting deals a good £1.76 cheaper on average than pharmacies.



Headline price fallers in January have included five packs of duloxetine E/C caps, three packs of trimethoprim tabs and two packs of metformin oral solution S/F 500mg/5ml. Key risers have included three packs of pioglitazone tabs where NCSO (No Cheaper Stock Available) was an issue.

### The fallers

In January the price of metformin oral solution S/F 500mg/5ml 100ml fell on average by 66% as Actavis reduced its prices to dispensing doctors and retail pharmacies. Prices below £15.00 were available from Cambrian Alliance, Actavis, OTC Direct and Alliance Healthcare.

Duloxetine E/C Caps 40mg 28 fell on average by 60% in January as Mawdsleys, Numark, OTC Direct and Trident decreased their prices. The only price below £5.00 was an offer from Mawdsleys at the beginning of January.

The average price of metformin oral solution S/F 500mg/5ml 150ml fell by 56% in January as the English drug tariff price fell from £26.38 to £18.91 and Actavis and Numark reduced their prices. Prices below £20 were available from OTC Direct, Alliance Healthcare and Numark.

### The risers

In January the average prices of the 15mg, 30mg and 45mg packs of pioglitazone tablet 28 packs all rose by over 2000%. This was accompanied by NCSO prices of between £25 and £36 in both December and January, indicating significant availability problems.