

Dispensing GPs mind the PI gap but steam ahead with generics buying



Latest analysis for purchasing in generics and parallel imports shows that dispensing doctors have been able to reduce their buying bill; they have significantly closed the gap between the PI prices paid by GPs and pharmacists, and they consistently achieve far more favourable generics prices.

During December, the main headline price faller was pregabalin caps, five lines of which fell to around a quarter of the February 2015 launch price. Other key fallers include oxycodone, and tramadol SR tabs. Key price risers include two packs each of clonazepam tabs, diamorphine hydrochloride powder for solution for injection amps and paracetamol paed suspension S/F 120mg/5ml.

Fallers

The average price of cimetidine tabs 200mg x60 fell dramatically as a number of very high prices disappeared from the market. The best dispensing GP prices available in December came from Lexon and Eclipse.

Isosorbide mononitrate XL tabs 40mg x28 dropped in price after the disappearance of a number of very high prices. The best offers below £6.00 to dispensing doctors in December were from Lexon, Mawdsleys and AAH. Pharmacists saw offers below £6.00 from Cavendish, Lexon, Eclipse, OTC Direct, Mawdsleys, AAH, Alliance, Trident and Chemilines.

The best prices for nifedipine MR tabs 20mg x56 – at less than £3.00 and representing a 60% fall - were available to dispensing doctors from AAH and Lexon. Pharmacists also saw low prices from AAH, Lexon, Trident, Chemilines and Numark.

Risers

The prices for celiprolol tabs 400mg x28 during December doubled as all suppliers to pharmacy and dispensing practice increased their prices. This was due to the NCSO price of £39.65, which was current in both November and December. The best prices available to either customer were from Lexon, although good offers were also published by Ethigen.

Simple Eye Ointment 4g rose in price by 105% as some of the low-priced November offers disappeared from the market. Low prices below £3.00 were still available to dispensing doctors from AAH, and to pharmacists from Ethigen.

Many of the low-priced November offers for acarbose tabs 50mg x90 disappeared in December, leaving only Lexon offering stock at below £4.00 to dispensing doctors. However, pharmacists saw good priced offers below £4.00 from Lexon, Ethigen, Numark and Phoenix.

