

PI prices put the spring in a dispenser's step

As the first quarter of 2016-17 continues, dispensing GPs find themselves in the usual, but welcome, position of trumping pharmacists in terms of the prices paid for both generics and parallel imports: GP prices, on average, have been £1.50 cheaper for generics, and over £2 for parallel imports, according to Wavedata's April purchase price analysis for the DDA.



Looking at the headline price risers and fallers during April, digoxin and oxycodone PR tabs feature strongly among the risers, while in the fallers are oxycodone MR tabs and pregabalin caps. The latter is showing a very sudden reduction, probably in anticipation of a drop in the Drug Tariff.

Risers

The average dispensing doctor price of nitrofurantoin tabs 100mg x100 rose by 183% in April – a rise that was reflected in the Scottish Drug Tariff reimbursement price - from £12.71 to £30. Most suppliers increased their prices at the same time but offers below £30 were available from Ethigen, Lexon, Almus and Alliance Healthcare.

Nitrofurantoin tabs 100mg x28 also rose dramatically in price as a NCSO (no cheaper stock obtainable) status was granted in England and Wales; this increased the reimbursement rate from the £2.88 to £12.50. Prices below £10 were still on offer from Ethigen, Teva, Lexon, Almus, Alliance Healthcare, DE, AAH and Numark.

Omega 3 Caps 1g x28 proved a mixed bag in April as different companies both increased and decreased prices. Overall, the average price rose for dispensing doctors by 77%, but low prices below £3 were still available from Elite, Mawdsleys, Ethigen and Lexon.

Fallers

Pregabalin caps feature strongly among April's fallers: The average price of Pregabalin caps 100mg x84 fell and prices below £3 were available from DE, Chemilines, Eclipse, Beta and Ethigen.

Pregabalin caps 25mg x56 decreased by an average of 48% as suppliers reduced prices. The best offers below £2 could be obtained from DE, Forte Direct, Beta, Chemilines, Eclipse, Munro and OTC Direct. Pregabalin caps 75mg x56 pack also saw price reductions and good prices below £2 were on offer from Chemilines, Munro, Eclipse, Forte Direct, DE, Beta, B&S, Phoenix and AAH.