

Average prices remain steady in April

Prices of many of the more important products in the UK market were steady in April, with independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors paying on average more or less what they were in the previous month.

As Figure 1 shows, changes in average prices were less than double-digit amounts, with only a few exceptions. The most striking was 28-tablet packs of simvastatin 10mg, which could be bought for just £0.12 (US\$0.24) – less than a halfpenny a tablet – representing 80% of its lowest price in March. Four-tablet packs of alendronate 70mg slipped by 15% to just £1.67, while tamsulosin, another recent market entrant, also suffered a double-digit average price fall.

Bargains were to be had as lowest prices from individual suppliers were more volatile. For example, 28-tablet packs of lisinopril 20mg could be bought for £0.36, a 27% fall on the best price a month earlier. The lowest 2.5mg strength of lisinopril also took a price tumble from one supplier, although prices of the other two strengths were static. The lowest price of 56-tablet packs of lamotrigine 100mg, however, experienced a 41% rise.

Outside of the 'fast movers', three newcomers were being discounted heavily, with glimepiride, ondansetron and sumatriptan all taking price tumbles (see Figure 2). Among the 'biggest risers' in Figure 3, warfarin made something of a price recovery. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.20	+54	£0.47	-15
Glimepiride tabs 1mg 30	£0.92	-19	£1.47	-15
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£3.89	-21	£26.51	-15
Ondansetron tabs 8mg 10	£3.09	-17	£18.66	-14
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.99	-27	£2.00	-14
Glimepiride tabs 2mg 30	£1.29	-26	£2.24	-12

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Erythromycin tabs 250mg 28	£0.69	+15	£1.25	+27
Propranolol tabs 10mg 28	£0.15	±0	£0.48	+25
Dosulepin tabs 75mg 28	£0.55	+20	£0.95	+22
Propranolol tabs 40mg 28	£0.18	-5	£0.49	+18
Warfarin tabs 5mg 28	£0.20	+11	£0.34	+17
Warfarin tabs 3mg 28	£0.15	+7	£0.25	+16

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 March and 1-30 April 2007 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 25 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 March and

1-30 April 2007 in lowest and average UK market prices of about 120 commonly-dispensed generics. The basket specifically excludes the 'fast movers' shown below, but includes other presentations of the same products. Each average price was calculated from at least 11 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS					FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)	Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.99	-14	£1.67	-15	Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.99	-7	£2.54	-3
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.39	±0	£0.52	±0	Lisinopril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.17	-15	£0.30	+5
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.52	+16	£0.72	-2	Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.23	±0	£0.37	+5
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.39	±0	£0.62	-1	Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.29	±0	£0.49	+1
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.43	-12	£0.86	+4	Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.36	-27	£0.76	+1
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.54	-8	£0.98	+2	Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.75	+4	£1.05	-2
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.99	+11	£1.35	+1	Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.79	+14	£1.21	-6
Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.25	-4	£0.34	+1	Pravastatin tabs 10mg 28	£1.26	+16	£1.79	±0
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.29	±0	£0.43	-3	Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.81	+7	£2.76	+1
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.70	+6	£1.08	±0	Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£2.47	±0	£4.63	-2
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.38	-7	£0.77	-8	Ramipril caps 1.25mg 28	£0.30	+3	£0.42	-3
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.54	-2	£0.97	-8	Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.34	-13	£0.55	-1
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.75	±0	£1.32	-5	Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.52	-5	£0.78	-4
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.39	+2	£2.12	+2	Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.65	-13	£1.08	+1
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£3.12	+4	£4.23	+1	Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.41	-5	£0.79	-5
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£0.64	+3	£1.49	-2	Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.65	±0	£1.32	+1
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.79	-7	£2.03	-4	Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.12	-14	£0.20	-20
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.51	+41	£3.23	+2	Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.34	-13
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£3.20	+9	£7.88	+3	Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.55	-11	£0.83	-6
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.99	-10	£1.47	-3	Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.25	-16	£2.15	-13

PRICE WATCH UK highlights generics price changes in the UK market and appears exclusively in every issue of **Generics bulletin**, courtesy of the Pharma TouchStone service of WaveData.

WaveData collects and collates pricing information from a number of European countries. In the UK, pricing information about generics, brands and parallel imports is gathered from offers made to independent retail pharmacists and dispensing doctors by wholesalers, suppliers and product manufacturers.

WaveData collates this data and publishes the results giving customers fast, accurate, real-time access to current generic prices. WaveData's Profesy price-forecasting tool can be found at www.wavedata.biz.

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