

Big price rises as bargains are withdrawn

Lamotrigine 25mg tablets in 56-count packs were available for just £0.20 (US\$0.39) from one supplier in the last few days of February, which explains the 210% increase to £0.62 for the lowest price of epilepsy drug in March, after the offer was withdrawn. Similarly, the special offer to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors of £0.29 on 28-tablet packs of pravastatin 20mg was not available in March, raising the lowest price of the cholesterol-lowerer by a massive 483% (see Figure 1).

Glimepiride is a relatively new generic, as discussed last month (**Generics bulletin**, 23 March 2007, page 21), whose average price fell dramatically in March. Average prices fell by a fifth, even

though at least one bargain – for 30-tablet packs of glimepiride 4mg – was withdrawn with the result that the lowest price more than doubled (see Figure 2). Average discounts to the Amaryl brand from Sanofi-Aventis were running at between 62% and 67%.

As both Figures 1 and 2 show, alendronate is another recent market addition that is still finding its generic price level. With prices for Merck's Fosamax brand at about £23, the generic discounts were 67% for the daily 10mg pack, but a hefty 91% for the weekly 70mg supply.

Average prices for levothyroxine 50µg were among the biggest risers for the second month in a row, increasing by another 26% following last month's 50% growth (see Figure 3). **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Glimepiride tabs 2mg 30	£1.74	+6	£2.55	-21
Glimepiride tabs 3mg 30	£2.62	-6	£4.21	-20
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£3.32	+141	£4.89	-20
Glimepiride tabs 1mg 30	£1.14	+13	£1.73	-19
Alendronate tabs 10mg 28	£5.27	-6	£7.70	-14
Co-Amilofruse tabs 2.5/20mg 28	£0.25	±0	£0.39	-13

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Prochlorperazine tabs 5mg 84	£0.59	±0	£1.57	+49
Erythromycin tabs 250mg 28	£0.73	+28	£0.99	+32
Levothyroxine tabs 50µg 28	£0.21	+50	£0.56	+26
Sulpiride tabs 200mg 30	£1.62	+28	£2.51	+25
Levothyroxine tabs 100µg 28	£0.22	-15	£0.61	+25
Nitrazepam tabs 5mg 28	£0.18	+13	£0.56	+22

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-28 February and 1-28 March 2007 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 23 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-28

February and 1-28 March 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 34 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£1.15	-11	£1.97	-19
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.39	-3	£0.52	-6
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.45	-21	£0.74	-4
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.39	±0	£0.63	-10
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.49	+2	£0.83	-8
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.59	-2	£0.97	-17
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.89	-1	£1.34	-6
Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.26	+4	£0.34	-1
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.29	+4	£0.45	-1
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.66	-8	£1.08	-2
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.41	-13	£0.84	-14
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.55	-5	£1.05	-17
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.75	-12	£1.39	-16
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.36	+13	£2.08	+5
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£3.00	-4	£4.18	+1
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£0.62	+210	£1.53	-3
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.85	-11	£2.11	-8
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.07	-8	£3.16	-7
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£2.93	+7	£7.66	-9
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£1.10	+11	£1.52	-4

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£2.15	+8	£2.62	+2
Lisinopril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.20	+43	£0.29	+15
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.23	+15	£0.35	+12
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.29	+38	£0.49	+13
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.49	+2	£0.76	+3
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.72	+4	£1.07	+14
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.69	±0	£1.29	+23
Pravastatin tabs 10mg 28	£1.09	+12	£1.79	±0
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.69	+483	£2.73	±0
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£2.47	±0	£4.73	+4
Ramipril caps 1.25mg 28	£0.29	+7	£0.44	±0
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.39	+18	£0.56	-10
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.55	+8	£0.81	-1
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.75	+7	£1.07	-1
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.43	-2	£0.83	-23
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.65	+2	£1.30	-13
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.14	±0	£0.25	+8
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.39	+3
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.62	+3	£0.88	-3
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.49	-7	£2.46	-10

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 as its Pharma TouchStone service. This is designed to give customers of the service fast, accurate, real-time access to current generic prices.

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