

Ciprofloxacin suffers from price volatility

Ciprofloxacin prices were somewhat volatile in the UK last month, with double-digit fluctuations in both directions compared with a month earlier. Meanwhile, prices for one of the UK's market's more recent entrants, pramipexole, took another downward lurch.

The average price for 10-tablet packs of ciprofloxacin 500mg increased by 15% in April, compared with a month earlier (see Figure 1). But a fresh price offer for the antibiotic took its lowest trade price to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors down another 5% to £0.24 (€0.40). In complete contrast, the average price for a similar pack size of the 750mg strength of ciprofloxacin fell by more than a third. Meanwhile, the lowest price offer for it was withdrawn and the cheapest price for which the product could be bought rose by a tenth to £0.55 (see Figure 2). Similarly, the average price for 20-tablet packs of ciprofloxacin

250mg fell by 14% in April, but its lowest price increased by 12%.

Both average and lowest prices for the pramipexole strengths featured in Figure 1 fell by about a third during April compared with a month earlier. The average price for 30-tablet packs of pramipexole 180µg dropped to £3.44, while its lowest price slipped to £1.48.

At these prices, the generic offered an average discount to Boehringer Ingelheim's Mirapexin equivalent of 82%, while the lowest price undercut the brand's trade price of £19.10 by 92%. Pharmacists enjoyed a profit margin of between 36% on average and 72% on the Drug Tariff reimbursement price of £5.37 for the category M product.

Elsewhere, sertraline 100mg prices continue to reflect product shortages since the beginning of the year; while average simvastatin prices rose sharply during April (see Figures 1 and 3).

| BIGGEST FALLERS | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Lowest price | Change (%) | Average price | Change (%) |
| Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10 | £0.55 | +10 | £0.84 | -34 |
| Oxazepam tabs 15mg 28 | £2.78 | -2 | £3.60 | -20 |
| Fluconazole caps 200mg 7 | £0.79 | -1 | £1.29 | -18 |
| Beclometasone 100µg 1 (200 doses) | £4.40 | -2 | £6.06 | -18 |
| Isosorbide M/nitrate tabs 20mg 56 | £0.42 | ±0 | £0.60 | -17 |
| Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 20 | £0.29 | +12 | £0.39 | -14 |

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 March 2011 and 1-27 April 2011 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 12 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31

| BIGGEST RISERS | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Lowest price | Change (%) | Average price | Change (%) |
| Oxytetracycline tabs 250mg 28 | £0.40 | +25 | £0.78 | +48 |
| Ranitidine tabs 300mg 30 | £0.82 | +11 | £1.67 | +39 |
| Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28 | £0.17 | +6 | £0.30 | +37 |
| Glimepiride tabs 3mg 30 | £0.37 | -5 | £1.23 | +35 |
| Furosemide tabs 500mg 28 | £2.06 | +20 | £3.83 | +30 |
| Ranitidine tabs 150mg 60 | £0.79 | -4 | £1.52 | +23 |

March 2011 and 1-27 April 2011 in lowest and average UK trade 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 12 data points (Source - WaveData).

| FAST MOVERS | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Lowest price | Change (%) | Average price | Change (%) |
| Alendronate tabs 70mg 4 | £0.38 | -7 | £0.53 | +1 |
| Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28 | £0.24 | ±0 | £0.34 | +6 |
| Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28 | £0.49 | ±0 | £0.65 | +1 |
| Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10 | £0.24 | -4 | £0.38 | +15 |
| Citalopram tabs 20mg 28 | £1.60 | -11 | £3.82 | -21 |
| Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14 | £0.93 | -1 | £1.46 | +12 |
| Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 30 | £1.16 | -7 | £1.58 | +1 |
| Enalapril tabs 20mg 28 | £0.24 | -4 | £0.36 | +5 |
| Finasteride tabs 5mg 28 | £0.98 | -2 | £1.55 | +17 |
| Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30 | £0.23 | -4 | £0.51 | +10 |
| Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28 | £1.50 | +2 | £1.94 | ±0 |
| Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30 | £0.59 | -3 | £0.89 | +3 |
| Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56 | £2.08 | -3 | £2.98 | -2 |
| Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28 | £0.89 | -3 | £1.09 | +1 |
| Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28 | £0.36 | ±0 | £0.50 | +3 |
| Losartan tabs 50mg 28 | £0.41 | -13 | £0.66 | +5 |
| Losartan tabs 100mg 28 | £0.46 | -2 | £0.78 | +2 |
| Metformin tabs 500mg 84 | £0.48 | +7 | £0.72 | ±0 |
| Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28 | £0.93 | +18 | £1.40 | +1 |
| Omeprazole caps 20mg 28 | £0.62 | -3 | £0.90 | +6 |
| Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30 | £2.74 | -7 | £4.58 | +8 |
| Pantoprazole tabs 20mg 28 | £0.41 | +2 | £0.72 | +3 |
| Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30 | £0.94 | ±0 | £1.47 | +15 |
| Pramipexole tabs 180µg 30 | £1.48 | -38 | £3.44 | -31 |
| Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30 | £5.69 | -24 | £11.52 | -36 |

| FAST MOVERS | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| Product/Strength/Pack size | Lowest price | Change (%) | Average price | Change (%) |
| Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28 | £1.30 | ±0 | £1.74 | +3 |
| Ramipril caps 10mg 28 | £0.55 | -4 | £0.74 | +3 |
| Risedronate tabs 35mg 4 | £1.19 | -2 | £1.58 | -20 |
| Risperidone tabs 2mg 60 | £0.76 | -16 | £1.51 | +4 |
| Sertraline tabs 100mg 28 | £4.58 | +445 | £12.66 | +3 |
| Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28 | £0.24 | +9 | £0.41 | +29 |
| Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28 | £0.39 | ±0 | £0.54 | +17 |
| Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6 | £0.68 | -3 | £1.04 | +10 |
| Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30 | £0.92 | +8 | £1.35 | +18 |
| Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14 | £1.09 | -1 | £1.42 | +2 |
| Topiramate tabs 50mg 60 | £1.90 | +1 | £3.30 | +2 |
| Topiramate tabs 100mg 60 | £2.54 | -5 | £4.48 | +4 |
| Venlafaxine tabs 37.5mg 56 | £1.80 | +3 | £2.44 | -2 |
| Venlafaxine XL caps 75mg 28 | £0.49 | ±0 | £0.99 | -2 |
| Venlafaxine XL caps 150mg 28 | £1.45 | +12 | £1.98 | +5 |

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