

Epilepsy products lead more price falls

Lots of market activity resulted in lamotrigine continuing its steady price fall last month, closely followed by another anti-epileptic, gabapentin. As Figure 2 shows, prices of the two drugs were some of the fastest-falling in the market in October.

Since GlaxoSmithKline's Lamictal brand lost its patent status in May, the average prices paid by independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors for lamotrigine have fallen to about 40% of the brand price. Lowest prices of the product generally fell faster than average prices last month, indicating some deals on offer, like 56-tablet packs of lamotrigine 50mg for just £4.99 (US\$8.88), or just

14% of the brand price of £34.70. The reimbursement price of lamotrigine in the latest Drug Tariff is still the brand price.

Meanwhile, the regular 'fast movers' in Figure 1 continued their price decline, which has been apparent for category M products since the category was introduced into the Drug Tariff in April. Amlodipine was only restored to category M in the October tariff, which could be why its market prices experienced some of the biggest falls.

The October price rises in Figure 3 contrasted with September, when there were almost none. However, with one exception, they were for lower-value commodity items.

BIGGEST FALLERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£4.99	-41	£13.19	-20
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£18.99	-21	£40.28	-20
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£9.15	-20	£17.93	-18
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£10.38	-25	£22.76	-18
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£4.40	-15	£8.64	-16
Gabapentin caps 100mg 100	£6.75	-15	£10.31	-16
Quinapril tabs 40mg 28	£1.38	-13	£2.55	-16
Omeprazole caps 40mg 7	£1.25	-26	£2.55	-12
Terazosin tabs 5mg 28	£2.80	-5	£4.69	-10
Fluconazole caps 200mg 7	£1.07	±0	£4.49	-8

Figure 1 (right): Comparison between the periods 1-31 September and 1-26 October 2005 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 39 data points (Source - WaveData).

Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (below): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 September and 1-26 October 2005 in lowest and average UK market prices of products taken from a basket of about 120 commonly-dispensed generics. The basket specifically excludes the 'fast movers' shown right, but includes other presentations of the same active substances. Each average price was calculated from at least 22 data points (Source - WaveData).

BIGGEST RISERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Oxazepam tabs 10mg 28	£0.58	+7	£1.30	+30
Paracetamol tabs 500mg 100	£0.28	-3	£0.49	+20
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 100	£0.72	±0	£1.37	+18
Aspirin tabs 75mg 28	£0.23	-4	£0.38	+18
Doxazosin tabs 4mg 28	£1.75	-4	£2.66	+18
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 28	£0.29	±0	£0.50	+16
Amiloride tabs 5mg 28	£0.15	±0	£0.26	+16
Amoxicillin caps 250mg 21	£0.22	-4	£0.40	+15
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£0.22	-15	£0.47	+15
Prednisolone tabs 1mg 28	£0.19	±0	£0.39	+15

FAST MOVERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£1.19	-20	£2.05	-25
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£2.15	-14	£3.68	-18
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.42	+14	£1.10	-23
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.50	-6	£1.25	-23
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.54	-7	£1.45	-23
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.66	-14	£1.81	-20
Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.27	-13	£0.57	-1
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.38	-3	£0.79	+2
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.49	±0	£1.46	-12
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.35	-8	£0.85	-9
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.45	-6	£0.92	-6
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£1.08	-6	£1.98	-15
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£2.99	-33	£5.01	-10
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£6.31	-16	£10.17	-6
Lisinopril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.16	-16	£0.31	-1
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.19	-14	£0.39	-1
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.32	-9	£0.51	-5
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.52	-22	£0.87	-3
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£1.25	-22	£2.36	-15
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£2.89	-31	£5.36	-14
Paroxetine tabs 20g 30	£1.80	-8	£3.49	-1
Paroxetine tabs 30mg 30	£9.60	-24	£15.00	-7
Pravastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.28	±0	£0.89	-10
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.34	-6	£1.10	-13
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.46	-10	£1.47	-2
Ramipril caps 1.25mg 28	£0.21	-13	£0.48	-4
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.24	-4	£0.58	-9
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.31	+24	£0.75	-5
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.53	-10	£1.02	±0
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.20	-17	£0.41	-7
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.30	±0	£0.52	+2
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.85	-6	£1.39	-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 and generic 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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