

July tariff leaves pharmacists options

Pharmacists in England are being reimbursed 28% less in July for dispensing 28-tablet packs of pravastatin 20mg than they were during the previous three months. The July Drug Tariff has reduced the reimbursement price of the product from £5.89 (US\$10.60) in April-June to £4.22 in July.

But as Figure 1 shows, had they shopped around, pharmacists could have bought the same product for 87% less than the reimbursement price during June. The lowest market price recorded last month was just £0.77, a 4% reduction on the figure for May. Even at the July tariff price (see also page 11), they could still have

had a margin of 448% on the lowest and 47% on the average price.

Ramipril and simvastatin tell a similar tale. Reducing the reimbursement price of 28-tablet packs of simvastatin 20mg by 35% to £1.48 in July still gives pharmacists the opportunity of being paid 3.7-times more for the product than the lowest price they could have bought it for in June. Put another way, their return will still be 83% more than the average June price in the marketplace.

A 20% tariff reduction to £1.80 for 28-capsule packs of ramipril 1.25mg still gives a potential July margin of 414% at the lowest June price and 137% at the average price.

BIGGEST FALLERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Quinapril tabs 40mg 28	£2.34	+34	£4.00	-14
Omeprazole caps 40mg 7	£3.24	+8	£4.68	-12
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£24.99	-15	£33.98	-11
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	£0.27	-7	£0.50	-9
Moxonidine tabs 400µg 28	£3.50	-12	£7.29	-9
Betahistine tabs 16mg 84	£0.93	-21	£1.87	-9
Co-codamol tabs 30/500mg 100	£2.09	-7	£2.88	-8
Gabapentin caps 100mg 100	£12.80	-5	£16.33	-8
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 20	£0.55	+12	£1.45	-8
Erythromycin tabs 250mg 28	£0.66	-21	£1.22	-8

Figure 1 (right): Comparison between the periods 1-31 May and 1-29 June 2005 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 52 data points (Source - WaveData).

Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (below): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 May and 1-29 June 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 26 data points (Source - WaveData).

BIGGEST RISERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Hydrocortisone oint. 1% 30g	£0.57	+6	£1.15	+33
Hydrocortisone cream 1% 30g	£0.57	+6	£1.44	+25
Hydrocortisone cream 1% 15g	£0.31	+7	£0.93	+24
Hydrocortisone cream 0.5% 15g	£0.28	±0	£0.70	+21
Chlorpromazine tabs 50mg 28	£0.64	-7	£1.29	+15
Salbutamol tabs 4mg 28	£0.79	±0	£1.47	+14
Chlorpromazine tabs 100mg 28	£0.80	-2	£1.52	+14
Salbutamol tabs 2mg 28	£0.45	±0	£0.89	+10
Chloramphenicol oint. 1% 4g	£0.59	+16	£1.07	+8
Trazodone tabs 150mg 28	£8.10	+3	£11.16	+7

FAST MOVERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£2.69	-10	£4.25	-8
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£4.75	±0	£6.56	-4
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.55	-23	£1.98	-14
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.65	-19	£2.20	-5
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.75	-6	£2.56	-10
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.95	-10	£3.17	-10
Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.35	-5	£0.75	-36
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.39	-9	£0.99	-8
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.43	+26	£1.74	-10
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.83	+6	£1.68	-4
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.84	-1	£2.00	-8
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£1.60	-20	£4.63	-3
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£4.99	+11	£7.12	-4
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£10.00	+11	£13.33	-1
Lisinopril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.24	±0	£0.46	-9
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.33	±0	£0.55	-6
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.44	-2	£0.70	-7
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.80	±0	£1.16	-4
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£2.60	-5	£4.64	-10
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£4.79	±0	£8.56	-6
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£2.24	+7	£5.02	±0
Paroxetine tabs 30mg 30	£16.45	-2	£20.86	-2
Pravastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.59	-16	£1.88	-15
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.77	-4	£2.87	-18
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.94	-5	£2.91	-25
Ramipril caps 1.25mg 28	£0.35	-10	£0.76	-10
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.45	-8	£0.92	-7
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.59	±0	£1.10	-5
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.87	-4	£1.42	-10
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.31	-11	£0.66	-5
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.40	-7	£0.81	-6
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.45	±0	£2.36	-5

PRICE WATCH UK

appears exclusively in every issue of *Generics bulletin*, courtesy of the Pharma TouchStone service of WaveData. In the UK there are over 100 active and competing wholesalers and generic manufacturers offering different prices to independent retail pharmacy and dispensing doctors through price lists, telesales offers and representative activity. Price Watch UK highlights the greatest price changes, and also how prices have altered for a basket of some of the fastest-moving generics.

WaveData collects this price information, formats it into databases and publishes the results as its Pharma TouchStone service. This is designed to give accurate, real-time access to current generic prices.

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