

Lansoprazole prices offer a 75% discount

Lansoprazole continued its downward price decline during March, as its average price to independent community pharmacists and dispensing doctors fell by about a quarter compared with a month earlier. Few bargains were to be had, however, as the lowest prices of the ulcer treatment – launched in December – were little changed from February (see Figure 1).

The average price for 28-capsule packs of lansoprazole 15mg and 30mg provided a 79% discount on Wyeth's equivalent prices for its Zoton brand; while savings of 89% could have been made by shopping around for the lowest prices. These discounts after three months compare with reductions of about 90% in the average

prices of better-established omeprazole 10mg and 20mg capsules, and 95% discounts for the lowest prices.

For the second month, enalapril topped the biggest price risers chart (see Figure 3). Increases of 50% in average prices followed similar uplifts in February (*Generics bulletin*, 3 March 2006, page 15).

Average prices of lamotrigine seem to have settled down to a 75% discount on the Lamictal brand price, but another epilepsy drug, gabapentin, topped the table of biggest price fallers in March (see Figure 2). Paying £7.73 (US\$13.53) on average for a 100-capsule pack of gabapentin 300mg, for example, represented an 85% discount on the equivalent Neurontin brand product.

BIGGEST FALLERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Gabapentin caps 100mg 100	£3.25	+2	£5.17	-13
Omeprazole caps 40mg 7	£1.07	-2	£1.70	-12
Ciprofloxacin tabs 100mg 6	£0.34	-8	£0.58	-11
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£4.35	+9	£7.73	-10
Simvastatin tabs 80mg 28	£5.95	-15	£9.25	-10
Diazepam tabs 5mg 28	£0.09	-10	£0.23	-9

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-28 February and 1-30 March 2006 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 35 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods

BIGGEST RISERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Enalapril tabs 10mg 28	£0.13	-7	£0.57	+54
Enalapril tabs 5mg 28	£0.12	+9	£0.48	+48
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.25	+32	£0.67	+47
Enalapril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.16	+23	£0.39	+47
Celiprolol tabs 400mg 28	£9.75	+11	£16.38	+28
Clomipramine caps 10mg 28	£0.40	+3	£0.83	+21

1-28 February and 1-30 March 2006 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 15 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£4.20	+9	£7.48	-3
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.58	-12	£0.89	-16
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.90	+1	£1.49	-12
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.36	±0	£1.09	+12
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.53	-2	£1.24	+8
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.61	±0	£1.52	+11
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.83	±0	£1.94	+4
Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.26	±0	£0.49	-6
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.34	±0	£0.63	-13
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.58	-9	£1.26	-9
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.49	+44	£0.94	+7
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.69	+6	£1.12	-3
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.88	+1	£1.75	+1
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£2.18	-8	£3.42	±0
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£4.60	±0	£7.09	+3
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£1.60	-36	£5.51	-2
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£3.11	-17	£7.74	-3
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£5.78	-17	£13.35	±0
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£9.50	±0	£25.44	+4
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£1.34	-6	£2.70	-22

FAST MOVERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£2.49	-4	£4.90	-23
Lisinopril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.12	±0	£0.29	+8
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.15	+15	£0.34	+5
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.47	±0
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.35	-22	£0.77	+1
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.99	±0	£1.69	-12
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£1.25	-3	£2.80	-12
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.66	+33	£3.82	+9
Pravastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.21	±0	£0.69	+20
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.24	-4	£0.84	+16
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.61	+22	£1.42	+15
Ramipril caps 1.25mg 28	£0.22	+5	£0.55	+11
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.28	+22	£0.69	+4
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.39	+3	£0.90	+5
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.70	+17	£1.16	+1
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£1.40	-12	£2.99	-11
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£2.65	+6	£4.94	-10
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.21	+24	£0.46	+5
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.37	+6	£0.69	+3
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.89	-1	£1.37	-8

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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