

Pressure released for antihypertensives

Antihypertensives were at the forefront of a price rally in the UK generics market last month, with average prices of some presentations rising by more than half.

Enalapril tablets led the way with average market prices paid by independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors increasing by between 40% and 57% (see Figure 3). Carvedilol, lisinopril, and ramipril were also much more expensive on average in February than they had been a month earlier (see Figure 1).

Not every manufacturer or wholesaler, however, was putting up its antihypertensive prices. The lowest prices for two of the four enalapril presentations were little different, and average carvedilol

prices rose ahead of increases in the lowest prices of equivalent packs. So while the average price of a 28-tablet pack of carvedilol 6.25mg was 36% higher at £1.25 (US\$2.20) in February, the same product could still be bought for £0.56 after a 2% price decline.

The average price of lisinopril 2.5mg hardly moved, but its lowest price jumped by more than a quarter. Conversely, the average price of the 5mg strength leapt by nearly a quarter, but its lowest price dropped below £0.005 per tablet. Only lisinopril 20mg showed consistent price rises. Meanwhile, amlodipine prices bucked the general trend, taking some of the biggest tumbles. These were much faster than those recorded for the 'biggest fallers' in Figure 2. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Fluconazole caps 200mg 7	£1.45	+36	£3.17	-7
Doxazosin tabs 4mg 28	£1.19	-37	£3.33	-5
Amoxicillin 125mg/5ml 100ml	£0.37	+6	£0.51	-5
Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml 100ml	£0.37	-8	£0.51	-3
Ramipril tabs 1.25mg 28	£0.90	±0	£1.34	-3
Diclofenac tabs 50mg 84	£0.70	±0	£2.41	-2

BIGGEST RISERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Enalapril tabs 5mg 28	£0.13	+18	£0.35	+57
Enalapril tabs 10mg 28	£0.15	+7	£0.40	+52
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.19	+6	£0.51	+50
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.08	±0	£0.19	+43
Furosemide tabs 20mg 28	£0.09	+13	£0.19	+42
Enalapril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.14	+27	£0.29	+40

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 January and 1-21 February 2006 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 26 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods

1-31 January and 1-21 February 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 16 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£3.85	-20	£8.50	-25
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.66	-12	£1.11	-18
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.89	-6	£1.78	-23
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.45	+18	£1.08	+36
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.56	-2	£1.25	+36
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.62	+3	£1.51	+43
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.92	+10	£2.12	+47
Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.26	±0	£0.57	+24
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.34	±0	£0.79	+23
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.65	+10	£1.45	+7
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.34	+13	£0.97	+15
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.67	+22	£1.32	+18
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.89	+11	£1.85	+1
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£2.40	±0	£3.65	+3
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£4.83	+1	£7.36	+8
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£2.49	-19	£6.07	+6
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£3.99	+14	£8.86	+7
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£6.95	-1	£14.38	+2
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£11.95	±0	£26.43	+1
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£1.42	-26	£3.82	-6

FAST MOVERS

Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£2.60	-27	£6.95	-7
Lisinopril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.14	+27	£0.25	+1
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.13	-7	£0.36	+23
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.52	+29
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.45	+29	£0.84	+24
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£1.06	+7	£2.07	+16
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£1.29	+3	£3.53	-3
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.45	+7	£3.93	+41
Pravastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.21	-5	£0.64	+22
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.33	+14	£0.81	+27
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.50	+11	£1.38	+22
Ramipril caps 1.25mg 28	£0.24	+20	£0.56	+30
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.32	+39	£0.73	+26
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.39	+30	£0.93	+22
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.60	+9	£1.24	+20
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£1.59	-24	£3.74	-26
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£2.55	-15	£6.19	-23
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.19	+12	£0.49	+10
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.35	±0	£0.72	+3
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.90	-5	£1.52	-4

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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