

Prices stable for fast-moving molecules

Prices in the UK market were fairly stable in August, with little to report by way of rapid changes among the 'fast movers' (see Figure 1). A glance at Figures 2 and 3, however, shows that there were still some dramatic price rises and falls in the month compared with July.

Average prices for the fast-moving antihypertensive ramipril all took a double-digit tumble in the month. The lowest prices for the ingredient were little changed, however, indicating that several players had lowered their prices.

With a further reduction of 9%, the lowest price of 30-tablet packs of ondansetron 4mg offered superb value to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors. Shopping around for the

product last month, they could have earned themselves an 87% discount by buying at the lowest price rather than the average price, which was almost 7.5-times more expensive at £23.90 (US\$48.1).

July's lowest prices for 30-capsule packs of tamsulosin 400µg and four-tablet packs of alendronate 70mg were withdrawn, however, lifting the lowest prices in August by 56% and 22%, respectively.

Elsewhere, price cuts reduced the average price of seven-capsule packs of omeprazole 40mg by 24% in August. At £0.96, it was only slightly ahead of the lowest £0.77 price. Meanwhile, one supplier of 21-capsule packs of amoxicillin 500mg held the lowest price steady, but others were less relaxed, lifting the average price by 28%. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Aspirin tabs 75mg 28	£0.11	-8	£0.15	-25
Omeprazole caps 40mg 7	£0.77	+3	£0.96	-24
Doxazosin tabs 2mg 28	£0.24	-4	£0.37	-21
Atenolol tabs 25mg 28	£0.07	±0	£0.12	-20
Glibenclamide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.10	±0	£0.17	-20
Furosemide tabs 20mg 28	£0.10	+11	£0.13	-20

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amoxicillin caps 500mg 21	£0.44	±0	£1.16	+28
Clotrimazole cream 1% 20g	£0.42	+2	£1.28	+27
Quinapril tabs 10mg 28	£0.75	+21	£1.55	+19
Bumetanide tabs 1mg 28	£0.52	+30	£1.11	+18
Amoxicillin caps 250mg 21	£0.45	+73	£0.77	+16
Diazepam tabs 2mg 28	£0.22	+5	£0.54	+15

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 July and 1-29 August 2007 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 40 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 July and

1-29 August 2007 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 25 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS					FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)	Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£1.75	+22	£2.63	-5	Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.46	-8	£0.82	-3
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.37	±0	£0.52	±0	Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.40	±0	£0.53	-1
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.53	-2	£0.73	+2	Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.35	-4	£2.25	-29
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.42	-7	£0.66	-3	Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.63	-10	£0.89	-1
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.53	-15	£0.85	±0	Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.66	-1	£0.95	-7
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.90	-2	£1.30	-6	Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£3.19	-9	£23.90	+2
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.29	+7	£0.45	-8	Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.44	-4	£2.15	-4
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.28	-13	£0.50	-10	Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.89	+5	£2.53	-3
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.39	-5	£0.59	-5	Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£3.40	+5	£4.25	-3
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.53	-17	£0.87	-7	Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.31	±0	£0.50	-12
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.49	+6	£2.05	-5	Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.45	±0	£0.65	-12
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.20	±0	£0.33	+1	Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.65	-2	£0.86	-12
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.55	-2	£2.33	-3	Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.40	±0	£0.70	-14
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£1.93	-10	£3.52	-15	Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.64	+16	£1.05	+2
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.92	-1	£2.16	+7	Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.09	-10	£0.19	+8
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.51	+1	£3.15	+5	Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.19	±0	£0.28	-2
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.92	-5	£1.22	-6	Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.48	-8	£0.73	+5
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.85	+6	£2.23	-2	Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.80	±0	£1.66	-13
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.24	+9	£0.40	-2	Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.54	+56	£2.31	+2
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.30	-3	£0.51	-8	Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.50	+6	£1.86	-3

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 giving customers fast, accurate, real-time access to current generic prices. WaveData's Profesy price-forecasting tool can be found at www.wavedata.biz.

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