

Simvastatin prices tumble in summer sale

Simvastatin prices plumbed new depths last month as the lowest price of 28-tablet packs of simvastatin 10mg dropped by 23% to just £0.10 (US\$0.20). Smaller price falls were recorded for simvastatin 20mg and 40mg, but the average prices of all three strengths fell in July compared with a month earlier (see Figure 1).

Meanwhile, bargains were withdrawn from the market for lansoprazole 15mg capsules, as the lowest price available to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors rose by 90%. At £0.97 (US\$1.95) for 28 capsules, the lowest-priced product was pitched at about 75% of the average price, giving pharmacists little incentive to shop around. Nevertheless, the discount to Wyeth's

Zoton brand was still at least 90% for either price.

Elsewhere, several suppliers chose to reduce the prices of their citalopram lines, as average prices fell by double-digit amounts. None were offering any bargains, however, as the lowest prices were relatively stable. In contrast, bargains were to be had for three of the newer generics – sumatriptan, tamsulosin and terbinafine – which were not reflected in their lower average prices. Indeed, the average price for 30-capsule packs of tamsulosin 400µg rose by 10%.

The trend during July, however, was for prices to rise, judging by the price cuts for the biggest fallers in Figure 2, which were less steep than the price increases for the biggest risers in Figure 3. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£5.49	-22	£7.62	-17
Gabapentin caps 100mg 100	£8.79	+19	£10.78	-9
Ondansetron tabs 8mg 10	£2.60	-10	£16.15	-8
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£11.50	-27	£17.17	-6
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.12	-8	£0.27	-6
Ranitidine tabs 300mg 30	£0.38	-3	£0.81	-6

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 100	£0.75	+14	£1.63	+48
Amiodarone tabs 200mg 28	£0.42	±0	£1.02	+44
Doxazosin tabs 2mg 28	£0.25	±0	£0.47	+40
Trimethoprim tabs 100mg 28	£0.19	+12	£0.37	+40
Gliclazide tabs 80mg 28	£0.29	+7	£0.59	+39
Quinine sulphate tabs 300mg 28	£0.75	+1	£1.35	+37

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 June and 1-31 July 2007 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 39 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-30 June and

1-31 July 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 23 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	£1.44	+15	£2.76	+16	Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.50	+2	£0.84	+11
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.37	-3	£0.52	+2	Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.40	-9	£0.54	+4
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.54	±0	£0.72	+1	Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.40	-8	£3.15	-9
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.45	+13	£0.68	+1	Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.70	+4	£0.90	-2
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.62	+9	£0.85	+1	Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.67	±0	£1.02	±0
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.92	+2	£1.39	+7	Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£3.50	-8	£23.54	-2
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.27	-4	£0.49	+15	Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.50	+1	£2.23	-2
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.32	±0	£0.56	-11	Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.80	+3	£2.61	-4
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.41	-7	£0.62	-23	Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£3.25	+9	£4.38	-7
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.64	-2	£0.94	-16	Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.31	±0	£0.57	+8
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.40	+57	£2.16	+3	Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.45	±0	£0.74	+3
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.20	-9	£0.33	-4	Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.66	-3	£0.97	±0
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.58	+1	£2.40	-6	Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.40	+3	£0.81	+12
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£2.15	-6	£4.16	+3	Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.55	-2	£1.04	-7
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.93	+18	£2.01	+5	Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.10	-23	£0.18	-7
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.49	+6	£3.00	+1	Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.19	-14	£0.28	-9
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.97	+90	£1.30	-2	Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.52	-2	£0.69	-6
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.75	-10	£2.27	-3	Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.80	-19	£1.91	+1
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.22	-4	£0.41	+10	Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£0.99	-20	£2.25	+10
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.31	-3	£0.55	+6	Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.42	-13	£1.92	-1

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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