

# Year ends with relatively stable prices

The year ended quietly with December prices in the UK market remaining broadly in line with November's. Dramatic price changes were few and far between, although at least one supplier of lansoprazole capsules had some stock it wanted to move quickly.

Offers to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors of £0.50 (US\$0.99) for 28-capsule packs of lansoprazole 15mg, and £1.00 for the 30mg strength, both represented price cuts of more than a third compared with the lowest prices in November (see Figure 1). Meanwhile, however, average lansoprazole prices barely moved, indicating only a single player was cutting its prices.

Sumatriptan showed the opposite effect. November's lowest

price offers were withdrawn, but nonetheless average prices fell by more than a fifth. Six-tablet packs of sumatriptan 100mg cost 24% less at £2.23 on average in December, but the lowest price available increased by 27% to £1.26 (see Figure 2).

One product that experienced a general upward price movement in December was atenolol. Average price rises of about a fifth mirrored similar increases in lowest prices, with 28-tablet packs of atenolol 50mg experiencing an average price increase of 19% while the lowest price went up by 29% (see Figure 3). But when the original price was just £0.07 – exactly 0.25 pence per tablet – a rise of a few pence is substantial in percentage terms. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£1.26	+27	£2.23	-24
Fluconazole caps 150mg 1	£0.17	±0	£0.26	-16
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.32	-6	£0.52	-14
Glibenclamide tabs 5mg 28	£0.12	±0	£0.19	-13
Furosemide tabs 20mg 28	£0.09	±0	£0.14	-12
Fluconazole caps 50mg 7	£0.20	±0	£0.31	-11

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Atenolol tabs 25mg 28	£0.08	+14	£0.18	+21
Atenolol tabs 50mg 28	£0.09	+29	£0.19	+19
Timolol eye drops 0.5% 5ml	£0.42	-2	£0.81	+17
Lactulose soln 500ml	£1.08	±0	£1.73	+15
Timolol eye drops 0.25% 5ml	£0.43	±0	£0.79	+15
Penicillamine tabs 250mg 56	£7.99	+1	£14.24	+15

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 November and 1-31 December 2007 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 1-30

November and 1-31 December 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 17 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.85	-4	£1.67	-7
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.36	+6	£0.52	+1
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.49	-2	£0.74	+5
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.40	±0	£0.63	-13
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.53	±0	£0.80	-6
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.89	±0	£1.37	-9
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.26	±0	£0.45	-3
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.25	-7	£0.42	-9
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.34	-3	£0.49	-8
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.46	-10	£0.77	-6
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.48	+2	£2.09	+2
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.28	-26	£0.61	-8
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.47	-8	£2.35	-5
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£1.59	+8	£3.25	+6
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.93	±0	£2.17	-5
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.67	+1	£3.02	-5
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.50	-37	£1.13	-2
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.00	-41	£2.04	-4
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.24	±0	£0.41	-4
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.33	±0	£0.51	-7

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.53	-2	£0.79	-4
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.40	+14	£0.55	-2
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£0.95	-24	£2.11	-6
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.99	-3	£1.46	-13
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.92	-7	£1.54	-15
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£2.90	+18	£25.24	+15
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.30	±0	£2.26	+8
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.39	-10	£2.17	-8
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£2.45	-5	£3.55	-4
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.34	+13	£0.55	-4
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.44	-2	£0.65	-18
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.61	+2	£0.84	-8
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.38	±0	£0.87	+8
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.56	±0	£1.35	+12
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.11	±0	£0.18	-10
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.18	-5	£0.27	-7
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.50	-6	£0.77	-5
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.79	+14	£1.38	-21
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.39	-4	£2.18	-4
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.50	±0	£1.83	-15

**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](http://www.wavedata.biz).

■ **For further information** see [www.wavedata.net](http://www.wavedata.net) or contact Charles Joynson, WaveData Limited, Concorde House, Comet Way, Eastwood, Essex SS2 6GD, UK Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125; Fax +44(0)1702 425129; E-mail [cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk](mailto:cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk). Website: [www.wavedata.co.uk](http://www.wavedata.co.uk).