

Commercial Bulletin

Monthly Service

Medicines run short in Greece

Greece claims that pharmaceutical companies have frozen shipments of medicines to the country due to the economic crisis and fears that stock may be exported.

A list of more than 50 companies has been drawn up.

Hundreds of medicines are affected, including treatments for arthritis, hepatitis C and hypertension, cholesterol-lowering agents, antipsychotics, antibiotics, anaesthetics and immunomodulators used to treat bowel disease

Patients are desperate to get their medicines and are going from chemist to chemist.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/feb/27/greece-blames-drug-companies-shortages>

Failing to complete continuing professional development (CPD) could result in being struck off.

Pharmacists in Northern Ireland could be struck off the register for failing to complete CPD; this could happen without a hearing.

Proposed CPD rules are due in June.

Pharmacists will have to complete 30 hours of CPD. If they fail they will have 28 days to submit their case to the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland (PSNI).

UK pharmacists only have to complete 8 hours of CPD.

http://www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk/news-content/-/article_display_list/15389276/northern-ireland-pharmacists-could-be-struck-off-without-hearing-over-cpd

New antibiotics needed

Resistance to antibiotics poses a number of threats including pandemic influenza and terrorism on the UK.

Tough measures need to be taken to prevent this problem.

Pharma companies need to develop new antibiotics but existing incentives are not good enough. New incentives need to be found to push companies to research for new antibiotics.

<http://blogs.nature.com/news/2013/03/drug-resistant-bacteria-and-lack-of-new-antibiotics-pose-catastrophic-threat.html>

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This bulletin is free to Interested people in Pharma & Healthcare

Please send names of new subscribers to Jackie@wavedata.co.uk

If you have articles, comments or story ideas, please send them to the email above

www.wavedata.co.uk

Savings can be made by delivering healthcare via telehealth

A report says that telehealth can reduce savings by lowering hospital admissions, provide care at home and improve patient satisfaction.

The pilot took place in Yorkshire from three sites. Healthcare was delivered through video conferencing.

It has shown that a new way of working has changed the way clinicians and physicians believe medical consultations can be delivered..

<http://www.2020health.org/2020health/Press/latest-news/Yorkshire-Telehealth.html>

Third batch of CCGs authorised

62 more CCGs have been given the go ahead by the National Health Service Commissioning Board (NHSCB). This now brings the total of CCGs authorised to 163.

There are 48 CCGs set to be authorised this month, meaning that from April 211 CCGs will be accountable for £65 billion of the NHS's £95 billion commissioning budget,

http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/13-02-26/Third_batch_of_62_CCGs_given_the_go-ahead.aspx

PRICE WATCH UK

Isosorbide shortages prompts a reaction

Shortages of all strengths of normal-release isosorbide mononitrate tablets have become so acute in the UK that the government's chief pharmaceutical officer, Dr Keith Rudge, has written to pharmacists.

"Problems with the availability of raw materials", he says, mean normal supplies are "unlikely to resume before the end of April 2013"

To see more go to <http://www.wavedata.co.uk/newinfo.asp> and view our article from this month's Generics Bulletin.

WaveData

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Percentage of the English population who pay the prescription charge.

Many of those who work in the pharmaceutical industry are unaware of just how small a percentage of the English population pay the prescription charge. In a response to the question below Norman Lamb gives the figure for 2011 at just 5.4% of all items dispensed have a prescription charge applied to them. For the latest news on the Drug Tariff, reimbursement and more visit www.dispex.net

Luciana Berger (Liverpool, Wavertree, Labour)

To ask the [Secretary of State](#) for Health how many of the prescriptions dispensed in England in (a) 2010, (b)2011 and (c) 2012 had the standard prescription charge applied; and how many of those prescriptions had been issued by the NHS.

[Hansard source](#) (Citation: HC Deb, 5 February 2013, c189W)



Norman Lamb (North Norfolk, Liberal Democrat)

The numbers of prescriptions items dispensed, in the community, in England, with the standard prescription charge applied for 2010 and 2011 are given in the following table. All of these prescriptions were issued by the national health service. Figures for 2012 are currently not available.

Calendar year	Items dispensed, charge applied (million)	All items dispensed (million)	Percentage of all items dispensed with charge applied
2010	52.3	926.7	5.6
2011	51.7	961.5	5.4

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/wrans/?id=2013-02-05a.141800.h&s=speaker%3A24924#g141800.q0>

Gregg Bull - Surelines - www.surelines.com

Pharma wholesalers ask for grace period for VBP.

A one month grace period has been requested by the British Association of Pharmaceutical Wholesalers for Value based pricing.

The scheme is planned to start on January 1st 2014, but to date there is still no pilot scheme in place.

There are concerns regarding British weather and holidays taken around the busy time at the end of December.

The request for one month's grace will allow wholesalers to phase out current PPRS prices; this will also help in reducing older stock.

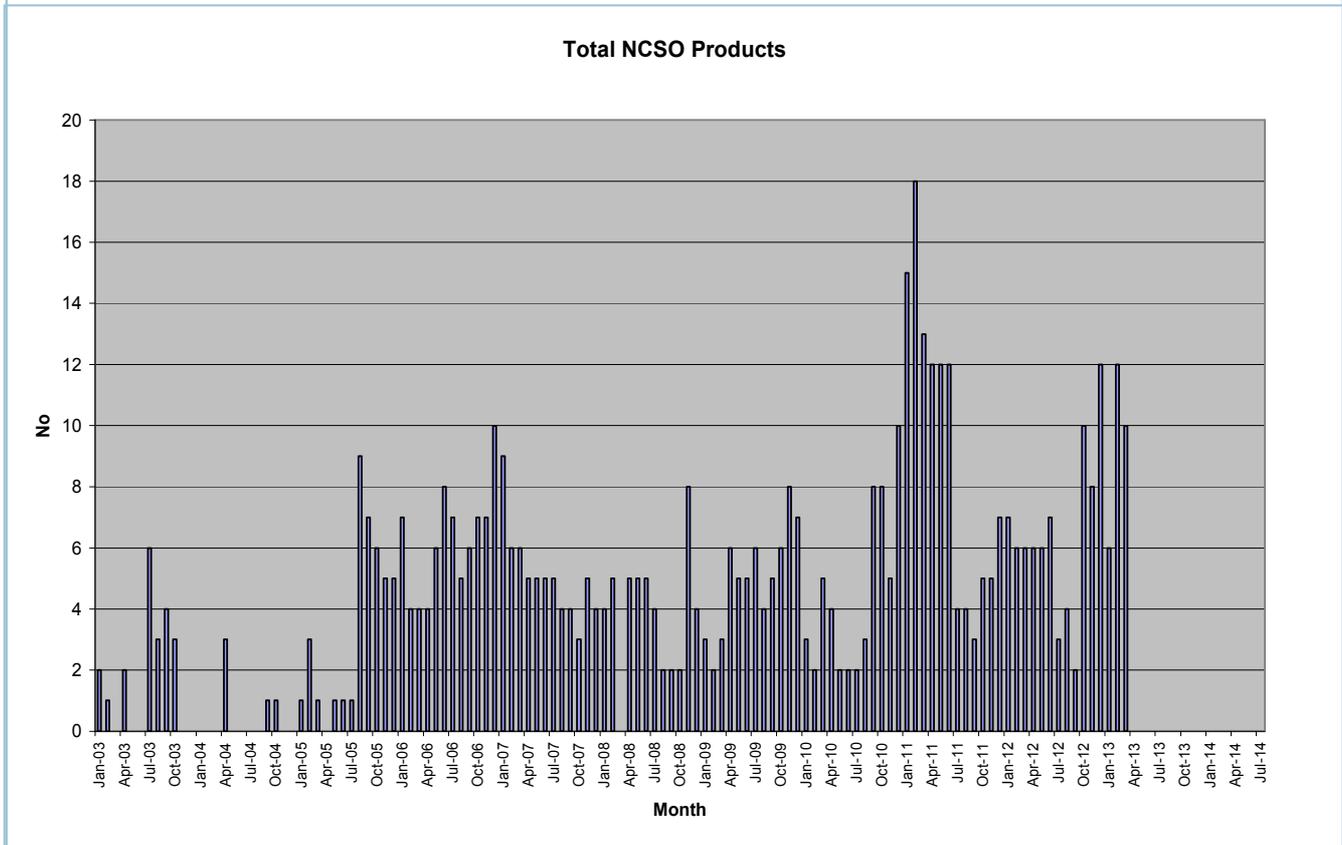
http://www.pharmatimes.com/Article/13-03-01/Pharma_wholesalers_ask_for_VBP_grace_period.aspx

Monthly Service

Current generic drug shortages flagged for concession by the PCNC include Indapamide Tabs, Isosorbide Mononitrate Tabs and Sertraline Tabs.

Seven other products have been allowed price increases during march.

The graph of the numbers of concessions or price increases each month is below:



WaveData — Top ten products

According to WaveData, these were the most commonly investigated products in searches of the online pricing data at <http://www.wavedata.net>

Both uk and pi prices were viewed for each product, giving some indication of where the focus was in February 2013

Simvastatin Tabs 40mg 28
Abilify Tabs 10mg 28
Simvastatin Tabs 20mg 28
Alendronate Tabs 70mg 4
Atorvastatin Tabs 20mg 28
Atorvastatin Tabs 40mg 28
Epanutin Caps 100mg 100
Sertraline Tabs 50mg 28
Indapamide Tabs 2.5mg 28
Losartan Tabs 100mg 28

This bulletin now goes out to 3000 plus people, and it is growing each month.

If you would like to add or suggest any articles/comments, please let me know by the 17th April 2013, as I will be issuing the next one on the 24th April 2013

If you have any colleagues who would like to receive this, please let them know about it.

You can view all copies of the Bulletin at

<http://www.wavedata.co.uk/newinfo.asp>

**Jackie Moss
WaveData Ltd**

**E-mail: Jackie@wavedata.co.uk
07968 815192**