

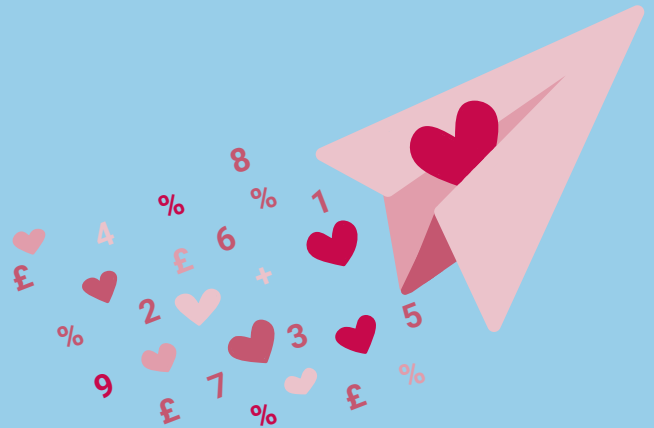


The Bulletin

February 2025

This Valentine's month, the WaveData team have been sharing their love of data with lots of clients. We've had high demand for training this month as our customers optimise their use of our services. If you would like to receive some refresher training, or if you're not yet a client would like to have a demo of our services, do get in touch.

We hope you've had a good February, and enjoy this issue of the Bulletin which includes the usual summary of news and also some interesting insights into predicting price changes and shortages.



Jackie Moss

Editor

WAVEDATA'S PICK OF THIS MONTH'S TOP NEWS STORIES

- **New Antibiotics cleared by FDA**
- **The UK needs manufacturing success**
- **Pricewatch UK – Vardenafil Leads UK Rises In January**
- **Allowing Pharmacists to amend prescriptions could make shortages worse**
- **New online pharmacy regs 'effective immediately'**
- **NHS spending £8.53 per pack of Paracetamol**
- **WaveData MD, Charles Joynson, takes a look back over the last ten years at the pricing and category changes of Etoricoxib Tabs**
- **Concerns that some GPs are unwilling to refer patients to Pharmacy First**
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New Antibiotics cleared by FDA

AbbVie has claimed FDA approval for Emblaveo, a new antibiotic product to treat complicated intra-abdominal infections (cIAI), including those caused by Gram-negative bacteria that represent a serious threat to public health.

The drug – a combination of beta-lactam antibiotic aztreonam with beta-lactamase inhibitor avibactam – is the first monobactam/ β -lactamase inhibitor combination to be cleared in the US for this type of infection, according to the pharma group.

Specifically, the fixed-dose, intravenous product can be used in combination with cIAI caused by susceptible Gram-negative bacteria, including *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Enterobacter cloacae* complex, *Citrobacter freundii* complex, and *Serratia marcescens*.

Gram-negative bacterial infections are a significant public health threat due to their ability to develop antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and include 'superbugs' that can produce metallo-beta-lactamases (MBLs), enzymes, which can make organisms resistant to almost all beta-lactam antibiotics. MBL-producing Gram-negative bacteria are among the most challenging infections to control, are on the rise globally, and are a priority pathogen for the World Health Organization (WHO).

Source: Pharmaphorum



The UK needs manufacturing success

The UK can't just be a life sciences lab – we need manufacturing success too

The UK is at the forefront of life sciences, with some world-leading research and innovation. But there's a big hole in the plan Chancellor Rachel Reeves outlined in her big growth speech. Martyn Williams, managing director of COPA-DATA UK, discusses how the UK isn't turning enough of that research into real-world impact.

'We excel at discovery, but when it comes to manufacturing, we're losing out. Groundbreaking science happens here, yet companies too often take their ideas overseas.

There's a simple reason for that. The UK lacks the facilities, incentives, and policy support to keep manufacturing at home. Without tackling this head-on, talk of science superpower status is empty, or at least comes too soon.

If we want to be a global leader in life sciences, we can't afford to be reliant on other countries to produce and commercialise our own ideas and innovations. The government has made the right noises about investment, but without a clear strategy to fix our manufacturing gap, we'll continue to lose businesses overseas.'

Source: Pharmaphorum



Pricewatch UK- Vardenafil Leads UK Rises In January

Vardenafil led the steepest generic price rises in the UK in January, with the average cost of one presentation of the erectile dysfunction treatment more than trebling.

In a month that saw multiple treble-digit-percentage average price rises for UK generics, vardenafil led the way in January, according to the latest figures from market researcher WaveData.

Based on trade prices to UK independent pharmacists, the average price for four 20mg vardenafil tablets jumped by 217% to £16.76 (\$21.09), even as the lowest available offer in the market remained unchanged at £2.12.

“With the 5mg and 10mg strengths of this erectile dysfunction medication experiencing some price increases last month, they were by no means of the magnitude of this highest strength,” WaveData commented, “the largest of which was £2.46 to £22.00.” And “having checked February’s data, as of the 11th, price rises are not showing any signs of slowing down,” the researcher indicated, “with the highest recorded offer coming in at £31.51, which tops last month’s by £8.50.

Source: Generics Bulletin

GENERICS BULLETIN
CITELINE COMMERCIAL

Allowing Pharmacists to amend prescriptions could make shortages worse

Changing the law to allow pharmacists to amend prescriptions to a different strength could have the unintended consequence of making drug shortages worse, a senior civil servant has said.

Gila Sacks, director of medicines in the Department of Health and Social Care, told a meeting of MPs and industry stakeholders that her department is “looking very closely at the moment” into whether community pharmacists should be permitted to make minor amendments to prescriptions to help patients access alternative formulations when a prescribed line is out of stock.

This is an issue the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has campaigned on, presenting written evidence to the All Party Pharmacy Group (APPG).

Source: P3 Pharmacy

P3pharmacy
Prescription. Advice. Help.

New online pharmacy regs 'effective immediately'

The General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) published new rules banning online pharmacies from prescribing high-risk medicine based on online questionnaires alone. It stressed they must “independently verify” patients’ weight and height before prescribing weight loss drugs.

All online pharmacies in Great Britain will have to strengthen safeguards in response to concerns identified relating to unsafe prescribing and supply of medicines online. The new guidance, which sets out how pharmacies can meet the regulator’s legal requirements, comes after its consultation launched in September garnered concerns that proposed changes risked “watering down” online pharmacy rules.

Now, the GPhC has said that it has taken feedback on board to further strengthen the guidance, which “emphasises that for high-risk medicines, a prescriber cannot base prescribing decisions on the information provided in an online questionnaire alone”.

Source: Chemist & Druggist



NHS spending £8.53 per pack of Paracetamol

Almost 2.5 million Paracetamol prescriptions were issued during 2023-24, according to Public Health Scotland

Analysis has shown that Paracetamol given free to patients on the Scottish NHS is costing the taxpayer as much as £8.53 per packet.

Almost 2.5 million prescriptions for the common painkiller were issued during 2023-24 at a cost of more than £14 million, according to figures held by the Scottish government agency Public Health Scotland.

With an estimated £7 million added to the bills to cover the pharmacy “dispensing fee”, calculations show the cost is equivalent to £8.53 for each prescription.

Source: The Telegraph

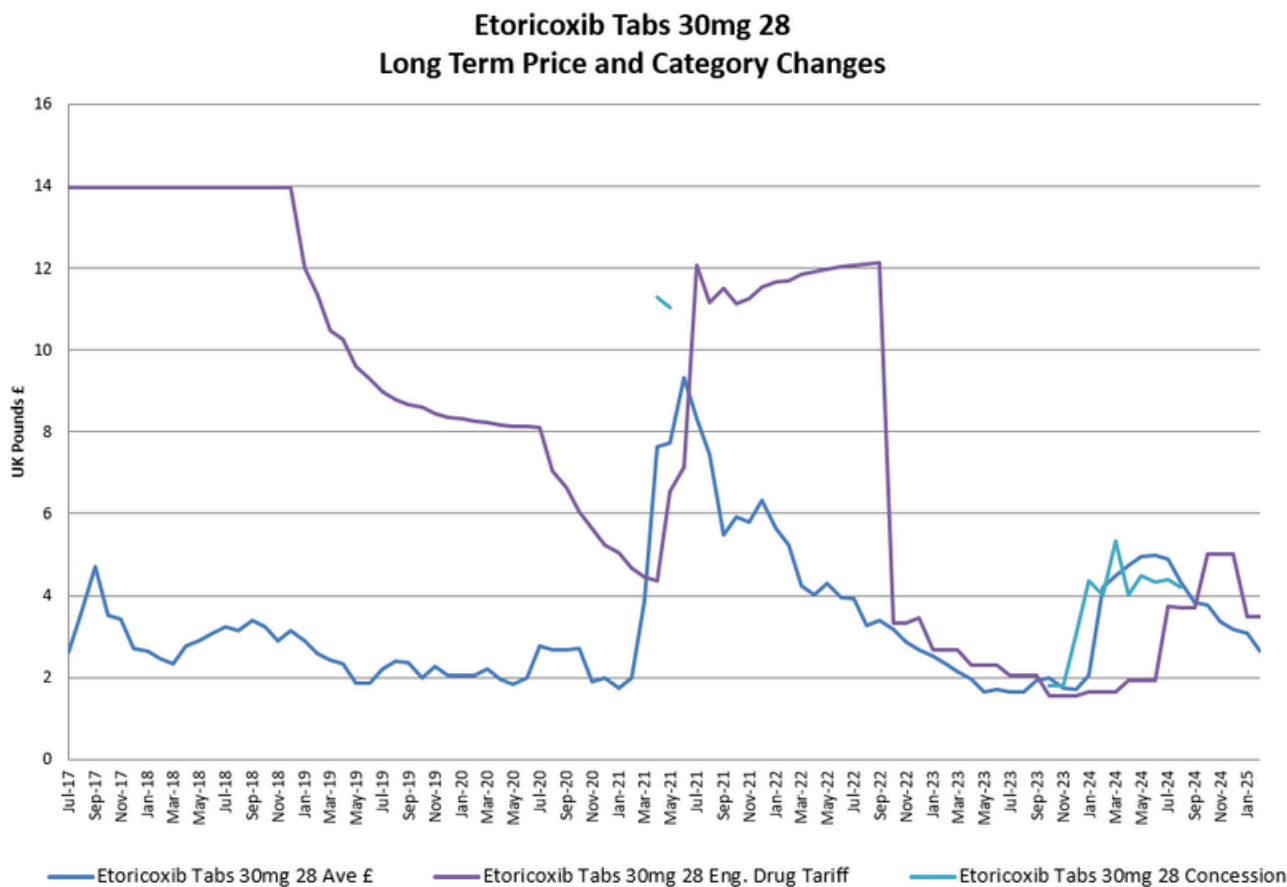


WaveData MD, Charles Joynson, takes a look back over the last ten years at the pricing and category changes of Etoricoxib Tabs

For the purpose of this deep dive, we have focused on Etoricoxib Tabs 30mg 28. This product started its life in our 10 year timeframe as a category C, swapping to category A in January 2019 and then to category M in October 2022.

Reimbursement prices have suffered big changes, including a big rise during a during a shortage in 2021 and a big fall when category M was introduced in Oct 2022. Looking at the long-term chart it does appear that £2.00 is the level of which manufacturers have trouble making a profit from this product. A period between 2019 and 2021 when the prices hovered round £2.00 resulted in a dramatic price spike, shortage and a concession in mid-2021, and the same price resulted in another spike in 2024.

Although the DHSC try to control prices using category M as a key mechanism, allowing market prices to fall below £2.00 is very damaging for supply. If market prices were maintained closer to the £3.00 mark I believe we could avoid this cycle of shortages.



Category History Reports are available as Bespoke Reports, or can be downloaded from WaveData Live by Platinum customers.

Concerns that some GPs are unwilling to refer patients to Pharmacy First

The Government is 'acting on' reports that some GPs have been 'unwilling' to direct patients to the Pharmacy First scheme for minor illnesses, a health minister has said.

During a debate on community pharmacy in the House of Lords, Baroness Winterton of Doncaster asked health minister Baroness Merron whether the Government was 'aware' of reports that some GPs have been 'unwilling to direct patients to community pharmacists' under the scheme.

When asked if she will consider whether "action is needed" to ensure GPs work with pharmacists, Baroness Merron said NHS England is working closely with integrated care boards, GPs and community pharmacies to improve referrals.

"This is a new service. It needs to bed in," she said. "Funding has also been provided to ICBs for primary care network engagement leads, who should be well placed to support GP teams to refer into the service."

Source: Pharmacy Magazine



Pharmaceutical giant cancels £450m investment in UK

AstraZeneca has said that Labour has failed to match the Conservative's offer of support and has cancelled a planned £450 million investment in a vaccine manufacturing plant in Merseyside.

The pharmaceutical giant announced its decision just two days after Chancellor Rachel Reeves set out Labour's plan to go "further and faster" to boost economic growth.

Labour has reversed the previous Chancellor Jeremy Hunt's announcement made in March 2024 to support AstraZeneca which would have seen the pharmaceutical giant expand their existing site in Speke, Merseyside.

The Tory government said the investment would boost Britain's life sciences sector and would provide better health protection for people in the UK to be prepared for another pandemic.

A spokesperson for AstraZeneca said, "Following discussions with the current Government, we are no longer pursuing our planned investment in Speke. "Several factors have influenced this decision including the timing and reduction of the final offer compared to the previous government's proposal."

AstraZeneca said despite ditching its investment plans, its site in Speke would "continue to produce and supply our flu vaccine, for patients in the UK and around the world".

Source: BBC News



Top Ten Branded Product Searches: WaveData Live

These are the most commonly investigated Branded products on WaveData Live in the last 35 days. Both UK and PI prices were viewed, average prices are shown.

Product	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
Relvar Ellipta Inhaler 184mcg/22mcg 1 (30 Doses)	£26.86	£26.84	£26.39	£26.41
Invokana Tabs 100mg 30	£34.42	£34.51	£33.72	£33.40
Incruse Ellipta Inhaler 55mcg 1 (30 Doses)	£24.31	£24.64	£23.79	£23.71
Seretide Evohaler CFC Free 250mcg 1 (120 Doses)	£24.68	£24.25	£24.40	£23.96
Invokana Tabs 300mg 30	£38.78	£38.73	£38.78	£38.74
Lamictal Tabs 100mg 56	£14.47	£15.59	£13.96	£13.25
Seretide Accuhaler 250mcg/50mcg 1 (60 Doses)	£18.53	£19.06	£18.05	£18.98
Seretide Accuhaler 500mcg/50mcg 1 (60 Doses)	£21.81	£22.23	£21.17	£21.10
Canesten Pessary 500mg 1	£6.11	£6.17	£6.18	£5.98
Firmagon Solution For Injection 80mg 1	£127.58	£127.10	£126.96	£119.89



Top Ten Generic Product Searches: WaveData Live

These are the most commonly investigated Generic products on WaveData Live in the last 35 days. Both UK and PI prices were viewed, average prices are shown.

Product	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25
Omeprazole Caps 20mg 28	£0.53	£0.49	£0.45	£0.44
Famotidine Tabs 20mg 28	£4.54	£13.43	£12.47	£11.35
Famotidine Tabs 40mg 28	£4.91	£23.98	£22.59	£22.10
Apixaban Tabs 5mg 56	£4.47	£3.05	£2.75	£3.26
Apixaban Tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.56	£3.22	£2.59	£2.52
Zopiclone Tabs 3.75mg 28	£0.81	£0.76	£0.67	£0.68
Zopiclone Tabs 7.5mg 28	£0.81	£0.79	£0.70	£0.66
Metformin Tabs 500mg 28	£0.24	£0.23	£0.23	£0.21
Sertraline Tabs 100mg 28	£0.71	£0.74	£0.66	£0.71
Atorvastatin Tabs 20mg 28	£0.32	£0.34	£0.30	£0.29



FUTURE INDUSTRY EVENTS

The 7th Int'l Congress on Controversies in Fibromyalgia	3rd & 4th Mar 25	Athens
The World Evidence, Pricing and Access Congress	5th & 6th Mar 25	Amsterdam
What makes a good submission to NICE	10th Mar 25	London
Next steps for clinical trials and research in the UK	11th Mar 25	Online
EMIG HR Group Webinar	11th Mar 25	Online
Transforming Children & Young People's Mental Health Services: Prospects for improvement under a new Labour government	13th Mar 25	Online
Will Labour Succeed in Achieving Clean Energy by 2030 and Put the UK on Track for Net Zero by 2050?	20th Mar 25	Online
EMIG DEIB Group Meeting	20th Mar 25	London
Priorities for healthcare policy in Wales	25th Mar 25	Online
Next steps for women in the workplace in the UK	26th Mar 25	Online
UK Health Security Agency Conference	25th & 26th Mar 25	Manchester
NICE Conference	27th Mar 25	Manchester
2025 BioPharma and Life Sciences Connected Live	27th Mar 25	London
Improving Palliative and End of Life Care: Transforming services in the wake of Parliament's vote on assisted dying	3rd Apr 25	Online
ABPI Conference 2025	3rd Apr 25	London
Priorities for the 10-Year Health Plan for the NHS	25th Apr 25	Online
Clinical Pharmacy Congress 2025	9th - 10th May 25	London
NEXT Pharma Summit	20th - 21st May	Dubrovnik
PharmaVenue	26th & 27th May	Madrid
16th Global Drug Delivery & Formulation Summit 2025	2nd - 4th June 25	Berlin
GHP PDIG	18th June 25	Birmingham
World Class Cannabis Business Europe 2025	28th & 29th Aug 25	Germany
Pharmacy Show	12-13 Oct 25	Birmingham

WaveData's Bulletin is a free-of-charge monthly service. Please let us know if you would like an article considered for inclusion, or if you have any colleagues who would like to be added to our subscribers list. You can view previous editions of The Bulletin in the [WaveData Knowledge Base](#).

If you need any assistance, or would like to find out more about our pricing or prescription services please get in touch.

Our Services:

- [WaveData Live](#): UK & EI Pharma Pricing 1-35 days
- [WaveData Pharma TouchStone](#): UK & EI Pharma Pricing up to 6 months
- [WaveData BPPI](#): UK Pharma Pricing up to 10 years
- [WaveData ScriptMap](#): GP Prescribing Data updated monthly

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