

The Bulletin

January 2026

The first month of the year has been really interesting for the WaveData team.... Attending our first event, the HDA Annual Conference, was a great opportunity to meet customers, and prospects. As ever, the choice of topics and quality of speakers was excellent. You can read Charles Joynson's overview on [Linked in](#).

We hope you have also had a positive start to the year, and enjoy this issue of the Bulletin which includes the usual summary of news and events.

Jackie Moss

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Editor



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

- Opposition to the new tariff change
- NHS backs AI note-taking
- Ban on aspirin exports
- Patients to benefit sooner as UK boosts clinical trials
- Trump struck pricing deals with 16 drug companies
- Poland eyes six-month medicine reserve supply
- Eye gene therapy to be delivered in doctors' offices
- Pricewatch UK - Repaglinide Leads Roster of UK Rises in December
- Charles Joynson, WaveData MD, looks to clarify the claim that many Pharmacies are dispensing at a loss.....
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- Future events
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- WaveData Top Ten Generic Product Searches

Opposition to the new tariff change

Sector bodies have objected to changes to the drug tariff, which the government hopes will “improve medicine margin arrangements”.

The Department of Health (DH) sent an advance notice last month on the new category H being introduced to part VIIIA of the drug tariff in March, as set out in the 2025/26 funding settlement.

Originally proposed by the DH in a 2019 consultation on drug reimbursement reforms, the introduction will involve changes to reimbursement price-setting arrangements for products in category C where there are multiple source products.

The DH said the current product reimbursement price listed in category C is “based on a specific product – often because it is the only brand available”.

Products with more than one supplier will be moved into category H in a “phased approach”, with the price set using information from suppliers.

Source: Chemist & Druggist

 Community pharmacy news,
analysis and CPD | Est. 1859

NHS backs AI note-taking

NHS organisations across England are being encouraged to adopt AI-powered notetaking tools, which early trials suggest could free up clinicians to spend nearly a quarter more time with patients.

NHS organisations are being urged to take advantage of a new national registry of 19 suppliers for the technology, which captures clinician–patient conversations and uses AI to accurately generate real-time transcriptions and clinical summaries, while ensuring data protection.

Embracing cutting-edge tools, known as ambient voice technologies, could save clinicians up to 2 or 3 minutes per patient consultation.

NHS England has published a new self-certified registry for the technology, which requires suppliers to comply with standards on clinical safety, technology and data protection.

 NHS
England

Source: NHS England

Ban on aspirin exports

The National Pharmacy Association (NPA) told C+D that pharmacies that can “get hold of” aspirin face costs that “far exceed” the amount the NHS will reimburse.

The Department of Health and Social Care added aspirin to its list of medicines that cannot be hoarded or exported out of the country because they are “needed for UK patients”.

According to the government’s website, the restriction applies to all strengths and pharmaceutical forms of the drug.

Source: Chemist & Druggist

C+D | Community pharmacy news,
analysis and CPD | Est. 1859

Patients to benefit sooner as UK boosts clinical trials

The UK is ramping up efforts to become a global first choice for clinical trials, as new figures published show a sharp rise in activity in 2025, and changes coming this year – including a fast-track route – that will help companies get studies up and running more quickly, so patients can benefit from new treatments sooner.

Data from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) shows clinical trial applications received rose by 9 per cent between January and November 2025 compared with the same period in 2024. Growth was strongest in early and innovative research, where speed and expert regulatory support can make or break decisions on where companies invest.

For example, trials involving healthy volunteers – often the first step in testing whether a new medicine is safe – increased by 16 per cent, alongside rises in trials testing treatments in people for the first time (5 per cent), and those being run in the UK for the first time (7 per cent), a sign of growing international confidence in the UK as a place to launch new research.

Source: GOV UK

 GOV.UK

Trump struck pricing deals with 16 drug companies

Since September, 16 major drug companies have inked deals with the Trump administration to lower prices. But in January, the time of year when pharmaceutical companies typically roll out price hikes, all 16 companies released higher list prices for some of their drugs.

The agreements, nicknamed "most favoured nation" deals, were aimed at getting lower prices for American consumers and pushing other wealthy countries to pay higher prices for new drugs.

But drug companies, including the 16 that made deals, raised the prices of 872 brand-name drugs in the first two weeks of 2026, according to a new analysis by 46brooklyn, a drug price research firm.

The drugs with price hikes included medicines to treat cancer, heart failure and Type 2 diabetes. The prices of some COVID-19 shots also increased.

Source: wbhm



Poland eyes six-month medicine reserve supply

Poland is proposing a national reserve of critical medicines with stocks for half a year, tapping its wholesale network to shield against shortages without building new factories.

A medicine reserve plan via wholesalers merely delays the real solution of boosting local production over finite stockpiles, industry leader warns.

The idea emerged at President Karol Nawrocki's first Health Council last week, highlighting vulnerabilities such as the 80% reliance on Asian APIs.

Stockpiling is a national matter under the EU's Critical Medicines Act (CMA), though Article 20 requires measures to be coordinated to prevent one country's reserves from harming supplies elsewhere. EFPIA and Medicines for Europe have long cautioned against fragmented stockpiling, urging EU-wide mechanisms instead to prioritise patient access over hoarding.

Source: EURACTIV



Eye gene therapy to be delivered in doctors' offices

There are currently no approved treatments for intermediate age-related macular degeneration.

U.K. biotech Ikarovec has teamed up with VectorBuilder to work on an eye disease gene therapy that could be administered in a doctor's office.

Ikarovec's IKAR-003 is currently in preclinical development for intermediate age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The one-time injectable therapy is designed to prevent the progression of this eye disease by offering both neuroprotection and complement modulation.

The agreement will enable VectorBuilder's AAV capsid technology to create a version of IKAR-003 that can be delivered to the eye via the minimally invasive intravitreal route in a doctor's office.

Source: Trending Now

trending now
Ophthalmology

Pricewatch UK - Repaglinide Leads Roster of UK Rises in December

In a busy month for triple-digit percentage average price rises for generics in the UK, repaglinide led the pack in December.

December brought a slew of steep price rises for UK generics, with our entire table of Biggest Risers comprising triple-digit percentage average increases, according to the latest figures from market researcher WaveData.

Based on UK trade prices to independent pharmacists, WaveData found that repaglinide 500mcg tablets in 30-count packs rocketed up in price by an average of 388% to £3.81 (\$5.10), while 90-tablet packs jumped in average price by 175% to £6.85.

“Despite taking 1st and 7th position in our Biggest Risers table, it was only a couple of wholesalers who were responsible for the triple-digit average price increases,” WaveData revealed, indicating that “all other comparable data remained fairly stable.”

“As of January 12, we are still collecting some lower prices, but additional wholesalers are following suit with the increases of the larger 90 pack size,” the market researcher revealed, “with the highest price collected so far this month being £31.55.”

Source: Generics Bulletin

GENERICS BULLETIN
CITELINE COMMERCIAL

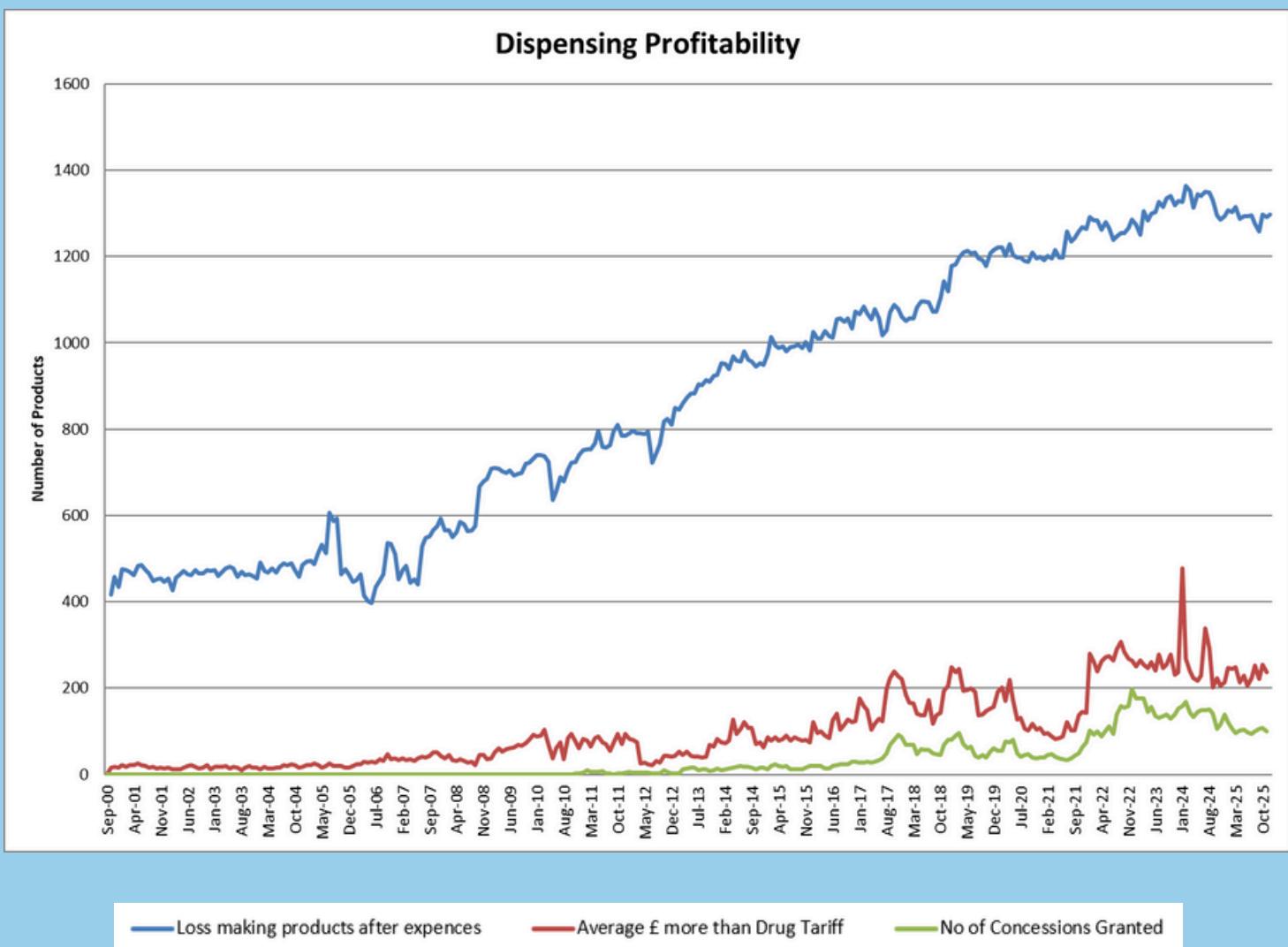
Charles Joynson, WaveData MD, looks to clarify the claim that many Pharmacies are dispensing at a loss.....

Pharmacies in England say they have been dispensing many items at a loss for a long time. We have previously looked at the number of Concessions each month and at the number of generic prices that exceed the Drug Tariff. But how many products are really dispensed at a loss if we take pharmacy costs into mind? We should include rent, rates, wages, heating, electricity, clawback and broadband, bundled as the single activity fee (SAF) of £1.46 paid to pharmacies for each NHS item dispensed.

The best available estimate suggests that an average Community Pharmacy in England spends roughly £2.50–£3.50 per item to dispense a pack of medicine. This means the calculation will be the cash leaving the Pharmacy; the average cost of the generic, the £3.00 for Pharmacy expenses, and a clawback of 20% of the Drug Tariff amount paid back to the NHS to cover wholesaler discount. The cash entering the Pharmacy will include the Drug Tariff and the single activity fee.

We have included the number of monthly Concessions, and the number of products where the average market price exceeds the English Drug Tariff. However, both these lines are dwarfed by the number of products which are unprofitable when Pharmacy expenses are taken into account.

For more insights from Charles, follow us on [Linked in](#).



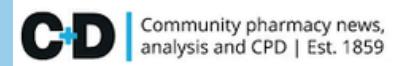
Pharmacy2U enters care home pharmacy sector

Online pharmacy Pharmacy2U has entered the care home pharmacy sector by acquiring Care Quality Pharmacy (CQP), a distance-selling pharmacy serving care homes exclusively.

Pharmacy2U said its purchase of Care Quality Pharmacy is “its first step” into the care home pharmacy sector, which handles 42 million prescriptions every year.

It said care home patients aged 65 and over in England received an estimated 42 million prescriptions at a drug cost of £410m in 2024/25. That was an increase on the 40 million items prescribed the previous year, which cost £396m.

Source: Chemist & Druggist



FUTURE INDUSTRY EVENTS

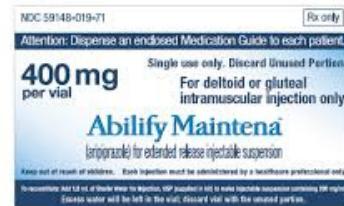
Priorities for integrated care systems and commissioning	2nd Feb 26	Online
Pharma Sustainability Integrates	25th Feb 26	London
Next steps for AI in healthcare	26th Feb 25	Online
World EPA Congress 2026	3rd - 4th Mar 26	Amsterdam
The 6th International Annual Congress on Cannabis-Based Medicines	9th - 10th Mar 26	Poland
The 8th International Congress on Controversies in Fibromyalgia	9th - 10th Mar 26	Poland
The European Conference on AI for Clinical Applications (Euraica2026)	11th - 12th Mar 26	Belgium
NICE Conference	17th Mar 26	Manchester
BIO-Europe	23rd - 25th Mar 26	Portugal
Next steps for rare diseases in England	16th Apr 26	Online
Next steps for tackling antimicrobial resistance in the UK	21st Apr 26	Online
Pharma Europe 2026	22nd - 24th Apr 26	Barcelona
Next steps for 10 Year Health Plan delivery and NHS reform	27th Apr 26	Online
15th edition of the Clinical Pharmacy Congress	9th - 10th May 26	London
Priorities for women's health in England	15th May 26	Online
Next steps for the health and social care system in Scotland	18th May 26	Online
7th International Conference on Rare Diseases (RARE2026)	17th - 18th Jun 26	Poland

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	Oct-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Invokana Tabs 100mg 30	£28.78	£28.14	£28.47	£27.54
Invokana Tabs 300mg 30	£37.06	£37.06	£36.70	£36.78
Avamys Nasal Spray 1 (120 Doses)	£6.33	£6.28	£6.25	£6.26
Incruse Ellipta Inhaler 55mcg 1 (30 Doses)	£22.65	£22.32	£21.88	£22.22
Seretide Evohaler CFC Free 125mcg 1 (120 Doses)	£21.61	£21.51	£21.18	£20.95
Flutiform Inhaler CFC Free 250mcg/10mcg 1 (120 Doses)	£40.70	£39.88	£39.21	£38.67
Abilify Maintena Vial 400mg 1	£217.21	£217.33	£216.64	£216.05
Canesten Thrush Cream 2% 20g	£5.33	£5.53	£5.69	£3.93
Fostair NEXThaler Dry Powder Inhaler CFC Free 100mcg/6mcg	£28.39	£28.43	£28.45	£28.49
Nasonex Nasal Spray 50mcg 1 (140 Doses)	£6.65	£6.02	£5.87	£5.73

Prices correct at time of compilation, but may be subject to change.



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-25	Nov-25	Dec-25	Jan-26
Dapagliflozin Tabs 10mg 28	£9.12	£6.18	£5.52	£4.67
Atorvastatin Tabs 20mg 28	£0.22	£0.29	£0.28	£0.32
Omeprazole Caps 20mg 28	£0.41	£0.41	£0.43	£0.44
Apixaban Tabs 2.5mg 60	£0.90	£0.64	£0.59	£0.53
Atorvastatin Tabs 10mg 28	£0.15	£0.18	£0.21	£0.20
Apixaban Tabs 5mg 56	£1.00	£0.72	£0.61	£0.54
Zopiclone Tabs 7.5mg 28	£0.37	£0.35	£0.34	£0.34
Zopiclone Tabs 3.75mg 28	£0.36	£0.36	£0.37	£0.38
Citalopram Tabs 20mg 28	£0.22	£0.45	£1.42	£1.09
Atorvastatin Tabs 40mg 28	£0.27	£0.36	£0.40	£0.39
Orlistat Caps 120mg 84	£18.36	£17.97	£16.97	£16.78

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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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