

Season's
Greetings!

WAVEDATA COMMERCIAL BULLETIN

This bulletin now goes out to 5700+ people.

Wavedata's bulletin is a free-of-charge service, if you have any colleagues that would like to receive the bulletin please let us know.

As always, please contact us if you require additional information or if we can be of further assistance regarding products you would like to see in our database.

If you would like to add or suggest any articles or comments, please let us know by the 18th of next month, as the next bulletin will be issued on 25th January 2023.

If this is of interest to you, or you have preferences on what products you would like to see please email: bulletin@wavedata.co.uk

You can view all copies of the Bulletin at www.wavedata.co.uk



PATIENTS FACE CHRISTMAS WITHOUT VITAL DRUGS DUE TO SOARING COSTS

Patients risk being left without the drugs they need this Christmas due to huge price rises that make it unaffordable for pharmacists to buy some medicines.

Wholesale prices for common drugs including steroids, migraine medication and indigestion treatments have rocketed in the last few months chemists say, with some quadrupling or more.

Pharmacists are now losing money on more than 100 different medications, with an increasing number of chemists not buying more, saying it would bankrupt them.

To read more, click on the link below:

www.dailymail.co.uk

HRT SUPPLY ISSUES EASE

Six of the original 12 Serious Shortage Protocols (SSPs) issued for hormone replacement therapy (HRT) have expired, the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee (PSNC) has confirmed.

The PSNC has asked pharmacists to resume dispensing some HRT products in line with prescriptions after six SSPs expired.

This comes after the Department of Health and Social Care (DH) confirmed that there was “sufficient stock” of Oestrogel Pump Pack (estradiol) 0.06% gel and Ovestin (estriol 0.1%) 1mg cream “to meet normal demand”.

HRT products have been in and out of stock this year, leading the DH to bring together a task force to address the ongoing supply issues.

To read more, click on the link below:

www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk



UK PHARMACIES HAVE TO DISPENSE STREP A ANTIBIOTICS AT A LOSS

Pharmacies in the UK say they are being forced to dispense antibiotics to treat Strep A infection at a steep loss because of soaring wholesale prices.

An unseasonably early surge in Group A Streptococcus, mainly among schoolchildren, has pushed up demand for penicillin and amoxicillin, the main antibiotic treatments, in recent days, heaping pressure on already stretched pharmacies.

A total of 851 Strep A cases were recorded by the UK Health Security Agency in the week ending November 20, compared with an average of 186 during the same period in recent years.

Health chiefs deny that there's a shortage of antibiotics.

To read more, click the link below:

www.ft.com

PHARMACISTS WARN OF AMOXICILLIN SHORTAGES

The Association of Independent Multiple Pharmacies (AIMp) has said pharmacies are running out of amoxicillin, as the UK faces mounting cases of strep A infections.

The C+D today have been told that independent pharmacies across the country have reported struggling to get hold of the antibiotic, which is used to treat invasive group A strep.

This is yet another concerning example of a popular medicine going into short supply, at a time when there is a higher risk for infections in children.

The UK Health Security Agency reported at the beginning of December that scarlet fever incidences are higher than expected for this time of year and that there has been an increase in invasive group A strep cases.

To read more, click on the link below:

www.chemistanddruggist.co.uk



PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS AND NHS AFFORDABILITY

Generic products make up the vast majority of the pharmaceutical products used by the NHS. This is good for the taxpayer because it means that the majority of prescribed products are inexpensive. The number of generics in the English drug tariff has grown from 1,664 in August 2000 to 3,951 in December 2022. This also means that as the number of products in the drug tariff has grown, an equivalent number of products have been removed from the list of more expensive branded products.

However, as the number of low-cost products has increased, some have become so low-cost that the manufacturers can no longer make them at a profit. This includes drug tariff products with prices below £1.00. Five years ago, there were over 180 of these, and a concerted effort was applied to reduce this number. In mid-2021 this number had been reduced to just 33, however, since then it has grown again to 128 at the end of 2022. Manufacturers say that they cannot ship empty boxes for £1.00, never mind make the products to go in them.

In addition to these very low-cost products, some other products are reduced to unprofitability by competition between manufacturers. This can result in wave-like price trends, with periods of profit followed by periods of loss, making these products less attractive for manufacturers. The key drivers of this are market competition and low drug tariffs. Those products which are subject to periods of loss are also more likely to suffer shortages and to be granted price concessions (NCSO).

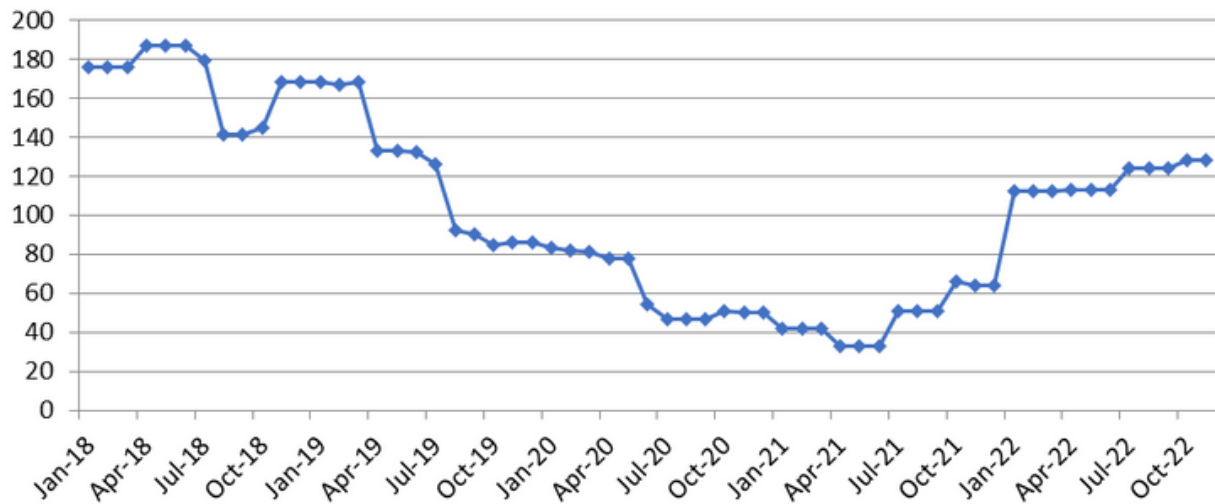
Another threat to the NHS is the interface between the VPAS rebate scheme, which is intended to return money to the NHS where manufacturers have made large profits, and branded generic products which are mainly low-cost. 85% of commonly used branded generics are reimbursed at the price of the equivalent generic or below it. Therefore, most of these products fall into the low-cost category of products that save the NHS money. However, the VPAS rebate manufacturers will have to return to the NHS will be 26.5% next year, which makes most branded generics unprofitable.

The VPAS rebate also affects branded products which have also been affected by its gradual increase. After repeated rounds of 5 yearly VPAS and previously PPRS rebates, some brands are no longer as profitable as they were decades ago.

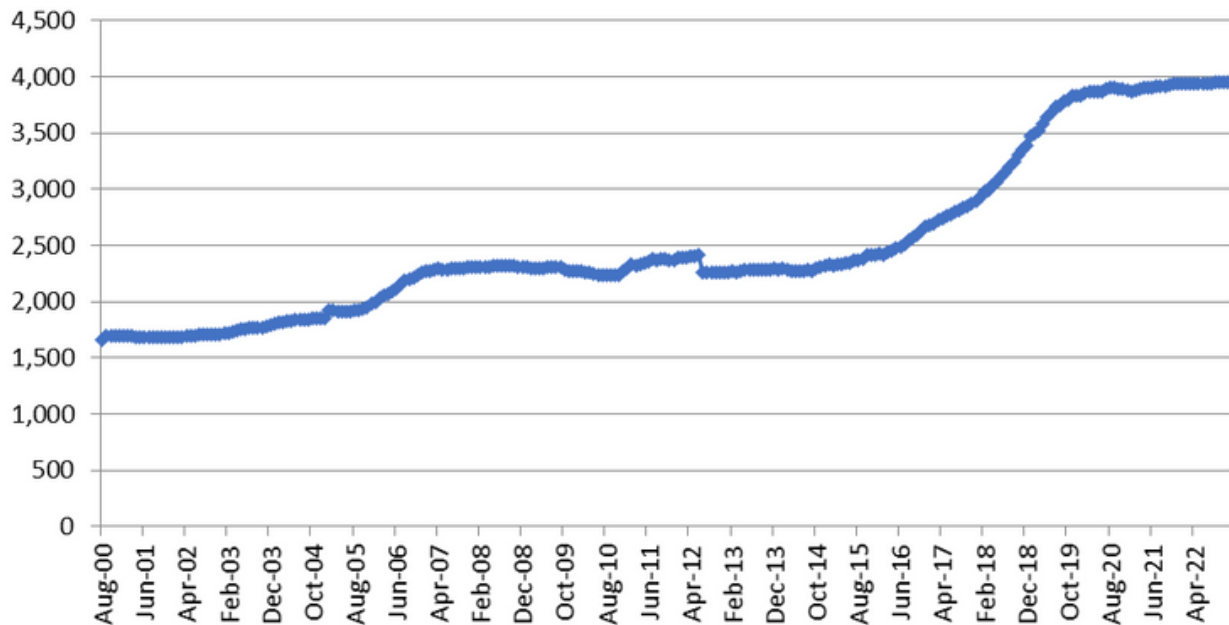
The threat to the NHS now is that they may lose generics, branded generics and low-cost brands from the available affordable medicines clinicians can reach into when they want to prescribe, forcing them to use more expensive products instead.



Number of Products Reimbursed at £1.00 or Less



Number of Products in the English Drug Tariff



VAXZEVRIA IS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AT PREVENTING COVID-19

AstraZeneca's Vaxzevria (ChAdOx1-S [Recombinant]) was highly effective at preventing Omicron-related COVID-19 severe outcomes or death when used as a first booster, irrespective of the type of vaccines previously given, with an 89% relative risk reduction.

Following a second booster, protection increased further with no severe outcomes or death being observed.

Based on the latest data, including that from Chiang Mai University, and following advice issued by the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) on immunisation, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has revised its Good Practice Statement on the use of COVID-19 boosters to include the use of viral vectored vaccines, including Vaxzevria, as first or second boosters as part of any COVID-19 heterologous vaccination schedule.

To read more, click on the link below:

www.thepharmaletter.com

GSK TO MOVE HQ TO CENTRAL LONDON

London now has recently seen two major life sciences investments, as GSK unveiled plans to move its headquarters to a central location in the city, while an ambitious plan to develop a new biosciences hub in Canary Wharf moved to the next stage.

GSK has selected a site currently being constructed on the corner of New Oxford Street and Earnshaw Street – known as the Earnshaw building – for its new HQ, which is currently located to the west of the capital in Brentford and put up for sale last year.

The company said in a statement that the site offers close proximity to London's fast-growing life sciences hub, It will allow swift transport links to GSK's main R&D campus in Stevenage – where the company is also developing a new bioscience cluster

To read more, click on the link below:

www.pharmaphorum.com



PRICE WATCH UK

UK PRICES SEE A RAFT OF RISES IN NOVEMBER

In November, multiple treble-digit price rises were seen for UK generics as a lengthy list of price concessions was issued by the Department of Health and Social Care.

A host of UK generics saw their prices more than double in November, according to the latest figures from market researcher WaveData.

Leading the pack was a 785% average rise for temazepam 10mg tablets, based on UK trade prices to independent pharmacists. This took the average price for a pack of 500 tablets up to £224.33 (\$277.33).

WaveData explained that “one company is responsible for this insomnia medication’s position at the top of the Biggest Risers table, with October’s price increasing from £28.47 to £482.14 in November.”

To see more go to www.generics.pharmaintelligence.informa.com and view our article from this month’s Generics Bulletin.

www.generics-bulletin.com

Generics Bulletin 
Informa Pharma Intelligence

WAVEDATA'S TOP 20 SEARCHED FOR PRODUCTS IN DECEMBER 2022

According to WaveData, these were the most commonly investigated products in searches of the online pricing data Wavedata Live accessed through www.wavedata.co.uk/login.

Both UK and PI prices were viewed for each product, giving some indication of where the focus was to December 2022. WaveData prices in the top 20 articles are averages.

Product	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22
Omeprazole Caps 20mg 28	£0.46	£0.72	£1.21	£2.39
Carbocisteine Caps 375mg 120	£2.92	£2.92	£8.60	£15.27
Lansoprazole Caps 15mg 28	£0.38	£0.44	£0.55	£0.72
Aripiprazole Tabs 10mg 28	£40.45	£40.18	£36.80	£27.19
Alendronate Tabs 70mg 4	£9.42	£7.13	£5.13	£4.45
Lansoprazole Caps 30mg 28	£0.64	£0.68	£0.78	£0.93
Ezetimibe Tabs 10mg 28	£1.93	£2.05	£1.82	£1.90
Sitagliptin Tabs 100mg 28	£22.07	£23.79	£26.56	£27.63
Losartan Tabs 50mg 28	£1.22	£1.16	£0.72	£0.72
Sertraline Tabs 100mg 28	£0.90	£0.90	£0.88	£0.93
Metformin Tabs 500mg 28	£0.38	£0.33	£0.37	£0.43
Citalopram Tabs 20mg 28	£2.91	£2.18	£1.74	£1.63
Propranolol Tabs 40mg 28	£0.34	£0.33	£0.35	£0.37
Bisoprolol Fumarate Tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.40	£0.60	£0.76	£0.88
Citalopram Tabs 10mg 28	£1.66	£1.24	£1.06	£1.09
Fluoxetine Caps 20mg 30	£1.41	£1.25	£1.13	£1.19
Gabapentin Caps 300mg 100	£2.81	£2.78	£3.15	£2.96
Sertraline Tabs 50mg 28	£0.69	£0.71	£0.70	£0.77
Losartan Tabs 100mg 28	£1.52	£1.48	£0.98	£1.02
Gabapentin Tabs 600mg 100	£6.56	£6.54	£14.19	£20.29



FUTURE EVENTS

Organizer	Date	Venue	a/t
Next steps for tackling health inequalities	17th Jan 23	Online	https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/Hlth-Inequality-2022
NHS England Net Zero Supplier Roadmap - Supplier Carbon Reduction Plan Webinar	19th Jan 23	Online	jill.payne (a/t) emig.org.uk
VPAS - A Panel Discussion	20th Jan 22	Online	https://app.livestorm.co/Isa-3/vpas-jan23
EMIG Compliance Webinar	23rd Jan 23	London	https://vwvlegal.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4M0yR8pvTFSk7LIX9exzBA
Next steps for tackling antimicrobial resistance	24th Jan 23	Online	https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/Antimicrobial-23
HDA UK Annual Conference	25th Jan 23	London	www.eventbrite.co.uk
Priorities for long COVID services, care and research	31st Jan 23	Online	https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/Long-Covid-23
NHS Confederation & Healthwatch - WHF policy conference	2nd Feb 23	Online	https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/Long-Term-Plan-23
New Medical Device Regulations	2nd - 3rd Feb 23	Belgium	https://rmd2023.com/
Good API GMP manufacturing practices with focus on ICH Q7 Online MasterClass	13th - 15th Feb 23	Online	dragan (a/t) trainergram.com
Development of Generics: from R&D to GMP Online MasterClass	15th - 16th Feb 23	Online	dragan (a/t) trainergram.com
2nd International Congress on Clinical Trials in Cannabis (CT-Cann2023)	15th - 16th Feb 23	London	https://ct-cann.com/
Next steps for NICE in England	21st Feb 23	Online	https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/NICE-2023
Good Manufacturing and Distribution Practice (GM DP) Symposia	21st -22nd Feb 23	Online	conferences (a/t) mhra.gov.uk
The 5th International Congress on Controversies in Fibromyalgia	30th - 31st Mar 23	Austria	https://fibromyalgia2023.com/
Next steps for diagnostics and medical devices in England	18th Apr 23	Online	https://www.westminsterforumprojects.co.uk/book/Medical-Devices-23

[CLICK THE LINKS TO OPEN](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

FROM EVERYONE HERE AT WAVEDATA,
WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

