

## Buying advantages even out as drug markets reach parity



Generics and parallel imports prices for dispensing GPs and pharmacists appear to have reached parity, Wavedata's purchase price analysis for September has shown. Although there are differences, they are small when compared with the differences just a few months ago. A possible explanation may lie in a seasonal policy by the short-line wholesalers to make the same offer to both types of account - however, this didn't happen last year.

In its exclusive monthly analysis for the DDA, aripiprazole tabs stand out strongly among the price fallers, with four packs falling in price. Other headline fallers include two packs each of propranolol and sertraline tabs. Headline risers include two packs each of cimetidine, diclofenac, paracetamol soluble and quinapril tabs.

### Risers

September saw the average dispensing doctor price of cimetidine tabs 200mg x60 rise by an average of 514% as the usual suppliers stopped advertising and only Mawdsleys remained. Pharmacists saw a similar trend with many suppliers' price lists disappearing and only Phoenix, Numark, Lexon, Waymade, Ethigen, Edinpharm and Eclipse continuing to advertise.

Celiprolol tabs 200mg x28 appeared on the PSNC's NCSO in August and September, and prices to dispensing doctors rose by an average of 449%. Although most suppliers increased their prices, Numark, Eclipse Ethigen and Edinpharm continued to offer low prices to pharmacies.

Another price concession from the PSNC resulted in trazodone oral solution S/F 50mg/5ml x120ml rising for dispensing GPs by 228% on average. Very few suppliers continued to advertise stock to pharmacies or dispensing doctors in September and the only prices below £100 were on offer from AAH and Ethigen.

### Fallers

Metformin tabs 500mg x28 fell on average for dispensing doctors by 45% in September as Actavis, Teva and others reduced their prices. Pharmacists saw a similar picture, with wholesalers following the price down.

During the month, aripiprazole tabs 30mg x28 fell by 40% on average for dispensing GPs as Actavis and Teva reduced prices. The same trend was seen for pharmacists,

with Alliance, AAH, Waymade, Sigma, Trident, Phoenix, OTC Direct, Numark, Mawdsleys and others all reducing prices.

Dispensing GPs also benefitted from a 38% average price drop for aripiprazole tabs 15mg x28 as the market followed the same trend seen with the 30mg aripiprazole.

