

Dispensing GPs stretch their buying advantage



Dispensing doctors have stretched their buying advantage, according to latest Wavedata data.

On average, GPs save £1.95 on their parallel import buying and £3.68 on their generics. However, long term analysis shows that Christmas and Easter are the worst times to buy parallel imports, suggesting the need to plan around these market blackspots.

At the end of October the unpredictability of the market remains a feature: just one product turned up twice in the price 'fallers' (colecalciferol caps), and just two in the risers (propranolol and ranitidine tabs).

Fallers

During the month, eight companies reduced prices for lamotrigine tabs 100mg x56, possibly due to the 22 per cent reduction in the English drug tariff at the beginning of the month. The best deals (below £3.00) were from Elite Pharma Surrey, DE, Cross Pharma, Purepharm, Ethigen, Eclipse and Strathclyde.

Another eight suppliers reduced prices for eplerenone tabs 25mg x28 during the month, accompanied by a small drop in the English drug tariff. This time the best deals below £3.00 were available from Ethigen, DE, Purepharm, Cross Pharm, Eclipse, Target, Cambrian, Trident and Strathclyde.

Nine suppliers decreased prices for prednisolone tabs 5mg x28, although another three put prices up. During the month, the English drug tariff price rose by 68 per cent. The best deals in October below £1.25 were on offer from DE, Eclipse, Elite, Strathclyde, Cambrian, Cavendish, OTC and B&S.

Risers

In October, eight suppliers increased offer prices for memantine tabs 20mg x28 in October, and English drug tariff prices rose 9 per cent. The best October deals below £8.90 were on offer from Teva, Trident, AAH, Numark, OTC Direct and Alliance.

Price concessions for hydroxyzine tabs 10mg x84 were also introduced, and most suppliers increased prices. The best deals below £3.00 were from OTC Direct, Alliance and Numark.

During the month, five suppliers increased prices for meloxicam tabs 15mg x30, and price concessions were introduced, along with a 43 per cent increase in the English drug tariff. The best deals below £3.00 were on offer from AAH, Target, OTC Direct, Numark, Purepharm and Alliance.