

## GP's advised to make hay while June PI prices shine



June has proved a good month for buying PIs and generics; purchase offers on generics have surged ahead of those on offer to pharmacists, while PI prices have caught up. Long term price analysis shows that good PI prices are available to dispensing doctors, but only at certain times of year: June and November are good times to buy, but avoid August and April. Could this be connected with periods of staff annual leave, wonders Wavedata?

Looking at the headline fallers and risers during June, the fallers list featured three packs of each of aripiprazole tabs and selegiline tabs, while noteworthy in the risers list is enalapril maleate tabs, lamotrigine tabs and omeprazole caps. Quetiapine has a pack in each camp.

### Fallers

The dispensing doctor average price of metronidazole tabs 200mgx21 fell by 47% in June as some of the higher priced offers disappeared from the market. The best offers to dispensing surgeries came from Beta, Lexon, Forte Direct, Elite and Mawdsleys. Pharmacies also had access to low prices, with the best prices suppliers including Waymade, Beta, Sigma, Lexon, Eclipse, OTC Direct and Edinpharm.

In June the average surgery price of betahistine tabs 8mgx84 fell by 28% as a number of companies lowered their prices. The best GP prices came from Beta, Elite, Forte Direct, Lexon, AAH and Mawdsleys. A similar group of wholesalers were offering good prices to pharmacists, but only Eclipse, Ethigen, Doncaster, Amimed and GD Cooper were on the pharmacists' lists.

The drug tariff price for selegiline Ttabs 5mg x60 rose by 3% in June, but the average dispensing doctor price fell 28% as a number of high priced offers disappeared from the market. The best prices being offered to dispensing surgeries were from Forte Direct and Teva, but Zecare, Sigma and AAH were offering low priced stock to pharmacists.

### Risers

In June the average dispensing doctor price of tizanidine tabs 4mg x120 rose by 90% as Actavis reintroduced a number of high priced offers. There was also a small 1% rise in the drug tariff at the same time. The best offers (below £5) to dispensing surgeries were from Beta, AAH, Forte Direct, Lexon and Mawdsleys. The best offers being made to pharmacies were from Beta, Edinpharm, AAH, Numark, Trident, Waymade, Chemilines, Sigma, Zecare and Lexon.

Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg x100 rose on average by 81% as a number of low priced offers vanished for dispensing GPs vanished. They were still able to access deals below

£3.00 from Mawdsleys, Lexon, AAH and Actavis. Companies offering similarly low priced offers to pharmacies included Edinpharm, Waymade, Ipharma, Eclipse, Ethigen, Numark, Trident, OTC Direct, Eclipse and Actavis.

The average dispensing doctor price of alendronate tabs 70mg x4 rose in June by 78% as Actavis introduced a number of higher priced offers. Low prices were still available to GPs from Elite, Forte Direct, Zecare, Beta, Mawdsleys, AAH, Phoenix and Teva, and to pharmacists from Elite, Trident, Waymade, iPharma, AAH, Ethigen, Sigma, GD Cooper, Sangers, Lexon and Eclipse.

