

Generics prices still favour dispensing GPs

By Wavedata

The generics market continues to favour dispensing GPs in terms of buying prices, although recently parallel import buying prices have been on the rise.

During March, noteworthy buying price movers include three packs of levetiracetam tabs, and two packs each of escitalopram and ramipril tabs among the fallers. Among the risers are two packs each of allopurinol and furosemide tabs.



Fallers

During the month a number of suppliers reduced prices for escitalopram tabs 10mg x28, supported a drop in the English Drug tariff from £3.38 in February to £2.37 in March. The best deals in March below £1.20 were available from B&S, Ethigen, Eclipse, Elite, Cambrian Alliance, Purepharm and DE.

Drops in all Drug Tariffs at the beginning of April have pushed suppliers to make pre-emptive price cuts in their selling prices for quetiapine tabs 200mg x60. The best March deals below £4.00 were from Eclipse, DE, B&S, Purepharm, Elite, Meanwood, Cambrian Alliance and Munro.

Widespread price cuts for nebivolol tabs 2.5mg x28 in March resulted in average price reductions of 17.5 per cent. Eight companies reduced prices while a couple put prices up. The best deals below £9.00 were from Eclipse, Elite, DE, CrossPharma, Target, Purepharm, Cambrian Alliance and B&S.

Risers

Almost every supplier made extra efforts to find additional supplies of paracetamol as the pandemic forced people to plan ahead, prompting price rises and little opportunity for low-cost buying. At April 6, the average April price for paracetamol caplets 500mg x100 stood at £2.19. Future price rises will depend on the lifespan of the COVID-19 pandemic in this country.

Ezetimibe tabs 10mg x28 were also subject to price rises among 12 suppliers in March, alongside a concession price of £3.39 and a small rise in the English Drug Tariff. The best deals below £1.00 were from Eclipse, AAH, Target, Trident, Ethigen and Beta.

A small increase in the English Drug tariff at the beginning of April and a concession price of £1.48 in March for isosorbide mononitrate tabs 20mg x 56 resulted in six suppliers increasing their prices. The remaining deals below £1.00 were on offer from Eclipse, Ethigen, DE, Elite and AAH.