

Moderate May produces unremarkable price changes



May produced a fairly routine picture of price changes with no real stand-out items. However, among the fallers were two strengths each of azathioprine, oxycodone PR and torasemide tabs and gamolenic acid and venlafaxine XL caps.

Risers included two packs each of co-amilofruse, propranolol and pramipexole tabs, and piroxicam caps. Only pregabalin caps had a foot in both camps with one pack among the risers and two among the fallers.

Dispensing doctors and pharmacists have fought a valiant battle to get the best prices from their generics and parallel import suppliers – and by the end of April it was clear that dispensing doctors were the victors in both races.

Fallers

In May, suppliers including Alliance, Aver Generics, Ethigen and Target reduced their prices for venlafaxine XL caps 150mg x28 to below £4.00. The best deals below £2.00 were available from Aver Generics, Beta, Ethigen, B&S Colorama, Munro and Lexon.

The price of venlafaxine XL caps 75mg x28 also fell during May - by over 40 per cent, thanks to offers from Alliance and AAH. Good offers below £1.20 were available from Beta, Munro, Elite, DE, Aver Generics, Ethigen, Lexon, Eclipse, Numark, AAH and CrossPharma.

Price reductions on pregabalin caps 200mg x84 were also the order of the day as Alliance, Teva, AAH, Aver Generics, Ethigen, Munro, Lexon and Beta reduced prices. The best deals below £3.00 were on offer from Lexon, DE, Munro, Ethigen, CrossPharma and Eclipse.

Risers

Many suppliers increased their prices for sumatriptan tabs 50mg x6 during May as a concession price for pharmacists of £28.65 was published and suppliers complained of stock shortages. There were still many low-price offers on the market, but they were published early in the month, and by the month end the average price was over £30.00.

Concession prices for pramipexole tabs 88mcg x30 were published in both April and May and all suppliers increased prices. Offers under £10.00 were still available, however, from Munro, Lexon, DE, Eclipse, Waymade Laxmico, Ethigen, Beta and Mawdsleys.

Mefenamic acid tabs 500mg x28 also saw big price increases from the majority of suppliers as a £59.99 May concession price rolled in. Most suppliers now offer above £37.00, although a number of low Teva prices remain. Teva is likely to remain the best chance of good deals; prices of between £30.00-£40.00 could be available from Beta and OTC Direct.