

PI deals worsen as Christmas cheer fades

Generics' prices battle to put the smile back on GPs' faces



By Wavedata

Good deals on parallel imports have proved scarce since Christmas, with average prices rising just under 11 per cent as dispensing GPs continue to struggle to achieve the same low prices offered to pharmacies. However, generics' suppliers are working hard to put the smile back on GPs' faces, Wavedata reports in its purchase price analysis for February.

The report, provided as part of an exclusive service for DDA members, shows that during February three lines of aripiprazole tabs and two lines of both cimetidine tabs and pregabalin caps featured among the price fallers, while among the risers were three lines of digoxin tabs and two lines each of aspirin E/C and propranolol tabs and ramipril caps.

Fallers

Purchase prices of cimetidine tabs 800mg x30 fell on average by 67% in February as a number of prices over £9 vanished from the market. Both dispensing doctors and retail pharmacies saw these replaced by prices below £2.99. The best prices (below £2) were available in February from Cambrian, Ethigen, Lexon and Alliance.

Ropinirole tabs 1mg x84 fell by 50% as Actavis' higher £3+ prices vanished from the market. Prices below £2 were on offer to dispensing doctors and pharmacies from Ethigen, Numark, AAH, Trident, Mawdsleys, Lexon, Cambrian, OTC Direct, Phoenix and Eclipse.

The 5mg strength of ropinirole tabs x84 pack also saw price reductions as the influence of higher Actavis prices left the market. However, price reductions by Alliance, Eclipse and Beta were also noted. Good prices below £3.50 were on offer from Mylan, Beta, B&S Colorama, Cambrian, Ethigen and Lexon.

Risers

The average price of aspirin E/C tabs 75mg x28 rose by 145% in February as most suppliers increased prices. However, offers below £0.40 were available during the month from Cavendish, Cambrian, Lexon, Chemilines, Elite and Mawdsleys.

The price of aspirin E/C Tabs 75mg x56 also rose during the month. However, prices below £0.50 were on offer from Cambrian, Ethigen, Teva, Lexon, OTC Direct, Mawdsleys and Elite.

Amitriptyline tabs 10mg x28 increased on average by 60% in February as many suppliers increased prices to both dispensing doctors and retail pharmacies. Good prices below £0.50 were still on offer from Alliance, Numark, Phoenix, Teva, Actavis and Ethigen.

