

Perindopril noteworthy for February price rises and reductions

By Wavedata

There were very few common threads in February's purchase price risers and fallers. Only perindopril tabs stood out with three packs in the risers and two packs in the fallers. Joining them in the latter were risperidone tabs. During the month, dispensing doctors maintained their buying lead over pharmacists, negotiating better prices for both generics and parallel imports: an average £2.90 advantage for generics, and £1.17 for imports.



Fallers

Market prices for propranolol tabs 40mg x28 fell in February as many suppliers cut prices, probably in response to the January reduction in the drug tariff price. The best deals below £1.00 in February and early March were from DE, OTC Direct, Ethigen, Medihealth North, Cambrian Alliance, Nupharm, Purepharm, Alliance, CrossPharm, Cavendish, Elite and Eclipse.

During the month nine companies reduced prices for naratriptan tabs 2.5mg x6, and 15 for candesartan tabs 8mg x28, possibly motivated by a drug tariff reduction in January. The best naratriptan deals below £1.70 in February and early March were from Nupharm, DE, Purepharm, Numark, Phoenix, Target and Eclipse, and for candesartan, deals below £0.90 in February and early March were on offer from Cambrian Alliance, Nupharm, Ethigen, Elite, Medihealth Northern, CrossPharma, Target, Sigma, Eclipse and Munro.

Risers

During February, 15 suppliers increased their prices for perindopril tabs 4mg x30 as a result of a shortage-led concession price of £3.49. As the month progressed, more than half of the market prices exceeded this level, suggesting that shortages remained an issue. The best deals below £2.40 in February and early March were on offer from Cambrian Alliance, Medihealth Northern, Beta, OTC Direct, Numark, Accord, Eclipse, Teva and DE.

Perindopril 8mg tabs x30 also experienced price rises, supply problems and a concession price (£2.75) in February. The best deals on offer below £2.00 in February and early March were from Eclipse, Beta, Cavendish, Cambrian Alliance and Medihealth Northern.

Pioglitazone tabs 30mg x28 also had a concession price in February (£2.08) and price increases were in evidence in 13 suppliers. The best deals in February and early March coming through at less than £1.50 were from Chemilines, AAH, Phoenix, Numark, Medihealth Northern, OTC Direct, Alliance Healthcare, Ethigen, Purepharm, DE and Eclipse.