

November Wavedata analysis

Tamoxifen taxes purchasers during November

By Wavedata

Produced in association with the Dispensing Doctors' Association.



During November purchasers of tamoxifen could find themselves rewarded for careful purchasing. Tamoxifen tabs saw both a price rise and a price fall over the month; tamoxifen tabs 10mgx30 was a riser, while the 20mgx30 packs were a faller.

Other drugs found themselves more definitely in one camp; two packs each of amoxicillin suspension, metformin SR tabs, metoprolol tabs, trimethoprim tabs and valsartan + hydrochlorothiazide tabs were found to be risers during November, while in the faller camp could be found two packs each of betahistine tabs and cefalexin caps.

Risers

November saw Trimethoprim Tabs 200mgX6 offered to dispensing doctors increase in price by 110% as Actavis doubled its prices. Pharmacists suffered the same price increase, but benefited from price decreases by AAH, Mawdsleys and Trident.

Valsartan + hydrochlorothiazide tabs 160mg/25mgx28 was another product hit by the Actavis price increases to dispensing doctors and pharmacists. Most other suppliers kept their prices steady, but good deals were still available from Beta, Cavendish, OTC Direct, Mawdsleys and Trident.

Valsartan + hydrochlorothiazide tabs 80mg/12.5mgx28 also increased in price for both dispenser professions, as Actavis prices increased. The best prices in the market were from Trident.

Fallers

This month also saw glimepiride tabs 3mgx30 fall by an average of 82% as suppliers and manufacturers withdrew, leaving only Beta with an offer to dispensing doctors of £0.30. This was not reflected amongst pharmacies, where prices were by and large stable; short dated stock was still on offer from some suppliers. The best prices were available from OTC Direct, Waymade, Trident, Cavendish and Beta.

Ciprofibrate tabs 100mgx28 also saw a reduction in price and in the numbers of suppliers offering stock, leaving only Elite Pharma Surrey active in November. However,

pharmacists saw big price reductions from Trident in the same month. Good deals were on offer from Trident, Waymade, Ethigen and Elite Pharma Surrey.

For ramipril tabs 1.25mgx28 Elite Pharma Surrey became the only dispensing doctor supplier in November. However, other suppliers continued to offer prices to pharmacists as usual. The best price was offered by Elite Pharma Surrey, but other suppliers with good prices included AAH, Trident, Cavendish and OTC Direct.

Dispensing doctors vs. pharmacists

Looking first at the generic average purchase prices graph on the **November spreadsheet** helps to demonstrate the difference between pharmacist and dispensing doctor purchase patterns. The dispensing doctor line is smooth, demonstrating consistent buying from the same suppliers each month.

However, the peaks and troughs of the pharmacy generic line shows the degree to which pharmacists will cherry pick the best deals.

The average parallel import purchase price graph shows that dispensing doctors still prefer UK to parallel import stock, and consequentially don't get offered the same deals as pharmacists.

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www.dispensingdoctor.org