

# Tariff updates on the up as shortages spiral

Shortages of generics continue to be a common theme, prompting speculation as to the causes, says Wavedata in its latest market report. For some people, shortages are about faults in the supply chain; for others it is about rising ingredient costs forcing manufacturers out of the market.



One indicator of the size of the issue is the number of generic price concessions granted each month. This shows a gradual increase since 2010 and a couple of peaks in November 2017 and March 2019.

Wavedata now operates a [stock finder service](#) with supplier search, price tracker and special offer price list functions.

## Risers

In terms of last month's market price risers, three packs of rivastigmine caps stand out. However, also noteworthy among the risers are two packs each of lormetazepam, propranolol and ranitidine tabs.

In November average market prices for nitrazepam tabs 5mg x28 rose by 501 per cent as 21 suppliers increased prices. A concession price of £2.49 helped soothe the pain a little, but not completely, as the average price of the drug remained £2.01 above this. Prices below £2.49 were available from Teva, Cambrian Alliance, Target and Ethigen.

Agomelatine tabs 25mg x28 rose on average by 245 per cent during the month as five suppliers increased prices. The best deals on offer below £10.00 were from DE, Numark, CrossPharma, Target, Ethigen and Alliance Healthcare.

Propranolol tabs 10mg x28 was subject to a price concession of £2.00 in November as the average price rose by 244 per cent to £3.50. The number of market offers decreased from 24 to 14 during November, which may reflect availability issues. Overall, 30 companies increased prices. The best deals below £1.50 were from Ethigen, Sigma, Eclipse, DE, CrossPharma, Zecare, Target, Purepharm and Nupharm.

## Fallers

Among the month's fallers are risperidone tabs 4mg x60, which fell by 40 per cent on average in November as seven suppliers reduced prices. The best offers below £10.00 were from Elite, DE, Bestway and Beta.

Prices of dosulepin caps 25mg x28 fell on average by 40 per cent in November as five companies reduced prices and only one increased. Deals below £1.00 were on offer from Purepharm, DE, Eclipse, Trident, AAH and Target. There was also some low-priced stock available from Zecare, but it was marked as expiring in February 2020.

A similar number of suppliers reduced prices for ibandronic acid tabs 150mg x3, which saw average prices fall by 39 per cent. The best offers below £15.00 were on offer from Ethigen,

B & S, Nupharm and Munro. Some prices on offer from Ethigen were for packs expiring in April 2020.