

Alendronate prices rise by more than half

Prices for the once-weekly osteoporosis treatment, alendronate 70mg tablets, were on the increase in the UK last month. The average price independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors paid for the four-tablet packs rose by more than half to £2.39 (US\$4.80) between May and June. As Figure 1 shows, the lowest price for the product also rose, but the price hike of 29% was less steep than that for the average price. This means that at least one relative bargain was still to be had in the market at £1.25, but other suppliers were raising their prices faster to about twice that figure.

Elsewhere, one supplier was offering strongly discounted 28-tablet packs of lansoprazole 15mg for just £0.51. The majority of

suppliers, however, kept their prices steady as the average price only dropped by 2% to £1.30. The supplier which was offering 28-tablet packs of enalapril 20mg for just £0.13 in May had a change of mind in June, leaving the price 69% higher at £0.22.

As one of the market's newer entrants, glimepiride continued its downward price trend (*Generics bulletin*, 23 March 2007, page 21). As both Figures 1 and 2 show, three of the four strengths offered bargains – the fourth did not quite make the 'biggest fallers' – but their average prices held up better. Amoxicillin experienced massive price rises in the month (see Figure 3); while beclometasone prices also rose strongly for the second month in succession. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.13	-35	£0.29	-20
Glimepiride tabs 3mg 30	£1.66	-24	£3.14	-11
Glimepiride tabs 1mg 30	£0.87	-12	£1.28	-10
Doxazosin tabs 4mg 28	£0.55	+12	£0.74	-10
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£0.24	+4	£0.35	-10
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£1.52	+22	£2.92	-10

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amoxicillin caps 250mg 21	£0.19	+90	£0.50	+114
Amoxicillin caps 500mg 21	£0.33	+22	£0.72	+88
Beclometasone 50µg (200 dose)	£2.19	+75	£3.68	+46
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 28	£0.28	+8	£0.59	+43
Beclometasone 250µg (200 dose)	£6.75	+39	£10.47	+39
Tolbutamide tabs 500mg 28	£0.49	+2	£1.26	+35

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 May and 1-30 June 2007 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 37 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 May and

1-30 June 2007 in lowest and average UK market prices of about 120 commonly-dispensed generics. The basket specifically excludes the 'fast movers' shown below, but includes other presentations of the same products. Each average price was calculated from at least 24 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS					FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)	Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£1.25	+29	£2.39	+56	Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.49	-4	£0.79	+5
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.38	-3	£0.51	±0	Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.44	+2	£0.52	±0
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.54	+2	£0.70	-1	Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.52	-15	£3.34	-3
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.40	+21	£0.66	-1	Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.67	-3	£0.91	-1
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.57	+43	£0.84	±0	Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.67	-4	£1.02	±0
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.90	-5	£1.30	±0	Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£3.80	-8	£25.85	+7
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.28	±0	£0.43	±0	Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.48	-1	£2.30	±0
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.32	-3	£0.60	-4	Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.75	-22	£2.58	-5
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.44	-2	£0.71	-12	Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£2.99	-13	£4.37	-7
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.65	-6	£1.10	-2	Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.31	-16	£0.53	±0
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£0.89	-33	£2.02	-3	Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.45	-2	£0.70	-3
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.22	+69	£0.33	-3	Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.68	-8	£0.93	-4
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.56	+11	£2.43	-5	Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.39	-7	£0.75	+4
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£2.28	-16	£3.82	-6	Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.56	-5	£1.09	-2
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.79	-1	£1.71	-11	Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.13	+30	£0.18	-5
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.40	-7	£2.76	-7	Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.22	+16	£0.28	-9
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.51	-50	£1.30	-2	Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.53	±0	£0.69	-7
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.95	-2	£2.37	+1	Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.99	+30	£1.96	+4
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.23	±0	£0.37	±0	Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.24	-1	£2.22	+9
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.32	-6	£0.51	-1	Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.64	+15	£1.96	+1

PRICE WATCH UK highlights generics price changes in the UK market and appears exclusively in every issue of *Generics bulletin*, courtesy of the Pharma TouchStone service of WaveData.

WaveData collects and collates pricing information from a number of European countries. In the UK, pricing information about generics, brands and parallel imports is gathered from offers made to independent retail pharmacists and dispensing doctors by wholesalers, suppliers and product manufacturers.

WaveData collates this data and publishes the results giving customers fast, accurate, real-time access to current generic prices. WaveData's Profesy price-forecasting tool can be found at www.wavedata.biz.

■ **For further information** see www.wavedata.net or contact Charles Joynson, WaveData Limited, Concorde House, Comet Way, Eastwood, Essex SS2 6GD, UK Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125; Fax +44(0)1702 425129; E-mail cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk. Website: www.wavedata.co.uk