

Average atenolol prices more than double

Massive proportional increases in the average prices of atenolol tablets were recorded by WaveData during August, even if the cash amounts were relatively small. As Figure 3 shows, the average trade prices of all three strengths of the beta-blockers more than doubled during the month. This meant, however, that the average trade price per tablet still amounted to no more than £0.03 (US\$0.05).

Independent pharmacists were not out of pocket either, despite the steep price rises. The Drug Tariff of pharmacy reimbursement prices listed all three strengths at between £0.87 and £0.94 for 28-tablet packs in August. For the 100mg strength, this would have meant an average pharmacy dispensing margin of just over 21%, based on a £0.94 reimbursement price and a £0.74 average trade price. The margin would have risen to an 80% margin if independent pharmacists had

shopped around for the best deal, which was £0.19 per pack.

Time will tell whether atenolol gets given an official monthly price concession because of apparent stock shortages. Six ingredients in 11 presentations were given price concessions by the Department of Health in August. Only one ingredient from the list appears below. The two presentations of isosorbide are not among the 'biggest risers', however, but can be found in the 'biggest fallers' of Figure 2. Isosorbide is the only ingredient in recent months to be officially declared to be in shortage (*Generics bulletin*, 8 March 2013, page 25). Since then, however, stocks have been returning to normal, judging by the falling prices.

Among the 'fast movers' in Figure 1, donepezil 10mg tablets were 59% more expensive on average than a month earlier, while pramipexole 700µg tablets were a third more costly.

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Zolmitriptan oro tabs 5mg 6	£0.70	-7	£1.38	-35
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.20	-9	£0.35	-31
Isosorbide mononitrate tabs 20mg 56	£5.97	-25	£9.31	-26
Glycerol suppositories 4g 12	£0.54	+17	£0.93	-25
Isosorbide mononitrate tabs 10mg 56	£6.84	-5	£9.42	-22
Diclofenac tabs 50mg 84	£0.25	-17	£0.48	-21

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Atenolol tabs 100mg 28	£0.19	+19	£0.74	+176
Atenolol tabs 25mg 28	£0.15	+36	£0.47	+139
Atenolol tabs 50mg 28	£0.10	+11	£0.53	+138
Senna tabs 7.5mg 60	£0.60	+3	£9.44	+98
Propranolol tabs 40mg 28	£0.21	+5	£0.56	+83
Pramipexole tabs 88µg 30	£0.64	+16	£1.80	+70

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 July 2013 and 1-26 August 2013 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 18 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 July

2013 and 1-26 August 2013 in lowest and average UK trade prices of about 748 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 15 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.05	+5	£4.95	+4
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£1.19	+9	£2.74	+9
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.52	-2	£0.75	-3
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.29	±0	£2.47	+1
Buprenorphine tabs 2mg 7	£1.68	-1	£2.12	-9
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£0.96	-9	£1.28	-3
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.96	+4	£1.41	+21
Cyclizine tabs 50mg 100	£10.50	+6	£11.79	-3
Desloratadine tabs 5mg 30	£0.87	-2	£1.17	-10
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.57	±0	£1.46	+59
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.23	-8	£1.83	+1
Entacapone tabs 200mg 30	£6.45	+8	£8.12	+9
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£3.99	-9	£5.59	-2
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£2.84	-11	£5.17	+2
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.62	-5	£0.94	±0
Irbesartan tabs 75mg 28	£0.62	-3	£0.84	-2
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£0.90	+5	£1.33	±0
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.64	+2	£1.02	+2
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.67	±0	£1.22	-7
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£0.94	+4	£3.09	+24
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.49	-2	£0.87	+14
Montelukast tabs 10mg 28	£1.47	-1	£1.91	-5
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£6.40	+9	£9.54	+20
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.73	±0	£1.46	+6
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.85	-1	£1.22	±0

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.41	+2	£0.78	±0
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£0.68	±0	£1.10	±0
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.25	±0	£2.99	+34
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.69	-1	£1.09	+1
Rabeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£1.84	-4	£2.41	-1
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£40.90	±0	£52.96	±0
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.44	±0	£0.68	-3
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.75	+6	£1.74	+4
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£1.19	±0	£1.52	-3
Tolterodine tabs 2mg 56	£1.98	±0	£2.90	-2
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.88	-4	£1.71	-6
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£0.97	+1	£1.42	+7
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£0.89	±0	£1.38	+2
Venlafaxine tabs 75mg 56	£1.57	±0	£2.18	+4
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.45	-6	£1.02	+9

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