

Concessions indicate greater shortages

Six different products were granted 'no cheaper stock obtainable' (NCSO) concessions in December, allowing pharmacists to dispense a more expensive alternative. The list included isosorbide mononitrate 20mg tablets, moclobemide 300mg tablets and selegiline 10mg tablets for the first time, alongside nifedipine 5mg and 10mg capsules, temazepam 10mg and 20mg tablets and trazodone 50mg and 100mg capsules and 150mg tablets.

Nifedipine, temazepam and trazodone were also granted NCSO concessions in November, when the four presentations of the two temazepam strengths topped our 'biggest risers' table (*Generics bulletin*, 14 December 2012, page 24). They are back again this month with average price rises of more than three-quarters (see Figure 3). Packs containing 28 trazodone 150mg tablets just failed to make the cut

with an average price increase of 60% compared with November.

Elsewhere, price falls were much less marked. Packs containing 30 pramipexole 700µg tablets were on offer for a 13% discount on the lowest price a month earlier, but this opportunity bucked the trend with the product's average price increasing by 6% in December (see Figure 1). Prices for pramipexole 88µg tablets, meanwhile, were more consistent, with the average price for 30-tablet packs falling by 12% and the best deal offering a discount of 5% on November's best price (see Figure 2).

Risedronate tablets were equally inconsistent. While four-tablet packs of the 35mg strength were 10% more expensive on average to the trade last month, as shown in Figure 1, 28-tablet packs of risedronate 30mg were 14% cheaper on average, although the best offer available was unchanged (see Figure 2).

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Methotrexate tabs 2.5mg 28	£2.95	+2	£4.93	-20
Riluzole tabs 50mg 56	£63.24	-1	£80.70	-14
Risedronate tabs 30mg 28	£9.99	±0	£48.88	-14
Bethahistine tabs 8mg 120	£2.44	±0	£4.55	-12
Pioglitazone tabs 30mg 28	£1.72	-7	£3.04	-12
Pramipexole tabs 88µg 30	£0.75	-5	£1.54	-12

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Temazepam tabs 20mg 28	£1.56	±0	£14.87	+138
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.54	±0	£1.62	+131
Temazepam tabs 20mg 250	£14.71	+36	£132.80	+128
Temazepam tabs 10mg 28	£3.05	±0	£11.02	+78
Temazepam tabs 10mg 500	£0.50	-97	£185.33	+77
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 100	£0.55	±0	£1.74	+67

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 November 2012 and 1-31 December 2012 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 29 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-30 November

2012 and 1-31 December 2012 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 18 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.16	+7	£0.25	+10
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.24	+1	£5.67	+5
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.87	+5	£1.45	+3
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.72	-9	£1.20	+1
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.35	-1	£2.07	+3
Candesartan tabs 8mg 28	£1.69	-7	£2.19	-5
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£1.76	+4	£2.50	+6
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.96	-1	£1.20	+2
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.69	±0	£3.90	+38
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.37	-6	£1.96	±0
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£5.99	-2	£8.16	+3
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£3.99	±0	£7.23	-7
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.58	-2	£0.95	+2
Fosinopril tabs 10mg 28	£3.85	-31	£12.19	-13
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.45	+2	£0.71	±0
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.19	±0	£1.99	+3
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.82	-7	£1.00	-2
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£1.09	-25	£1.95	-1
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.62	±0	£1.13	+2
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£0.99	+2	£1.49	-1
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£1.49	-24	£3.87	+1
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.66	-4	£0.95	+2
Mirtazapine orodisp. tabs 45mg 30	£1.39	±0	£1.85	+4
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£4.45	-6	£6.94	-4
Naratriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£1.22	-2	£2.47	+5

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.89	±0	£1.52	+6
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.59	+2	£0.97	+2
Perindopril tabs 4mg 30	£0.81	±0	£1.21	+7
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£1.14	-12	£2.11	-15
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£1.35	-13	£3.98	+6
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.96	-2	£1.70	+13
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.37	±0	£0.61	+10
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.69	±0	£1.10	-7
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.55	+20	£0.83	+8
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£0.90	±0	£1.39	+3
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£0.93	±0	£1.30	+4
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.79	-2	£1.62	+9
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£1.13	+14	£1.55	+2
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£1.00	-13	£1.84	+6
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.54	±0	£1.71	+24

WANT MORE LIKE THIS?

Detailed product price comparisons and other price analyses are available at www.wavedata.net.

To find out more about subscribing, please email your contact details to info@wavedata.co.uk and quote 'GB online enquiry' in the title line.

■ For further information see www.wavedata.co.uk. Alternatively, contact Charles Joynson at WaveData Limited, UK. Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125. E-mail cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk.

