

Deals disappear on lamotrigine tablets

Good deals on lamotrigine were withdrawn in July as the lowest prices available to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors rose by up to 40% compared with a month earlier. Average prices for the anti-epileptic, however, were little changed (see Figures 1 and 3).

Lamotrigine 50mg in 56-tablet packs saw the steepest price rise of 41% to £1.40 (US\$2.80). Meanwhile, its average price rose by only 8% to £2.66. At the lowest price, the profit margin for dispensers was still more than 200%, based on a government reimbursement price through category M of the Drug Tariff of £4.40 a pack. And when compared to the brand price of £34.70 for GlaxoSmithKline's Lamictal, the lowest-price discount was 96%.

Some other lowest prices also underwent big swings. The price of 28-tablet packs of mirtazapine 30mg was up by 64%, while suppliers of sertraline 100mg and ondansetron 4mg had stock they needed to shift.

Carvedilol prices were difficult to call in July. Average prices of medium strengths rose sharply, but low-price deals were still being promoted. Meanwhile, prices for the highest carvedilol 25mg strength fell slightly, and those for the lowest-strength fell sufficiently to make the 'biggest fallers' table (see Figure 2). Several suppliers of 28-tablet packs of carvedilol 3.125mg cut their prices to take the average down by 13%, but nobody cut more than 4% from June's best deal.

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£0.23	+5	£0.32	-17
Omeprazole caps 40mg 7	£0.74	-5	£1.19	-16
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.27	-4	£0.64	-13
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 100	£0.66	+3	£1.53	-12
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 28	£1.49	+3	£2.21	-10
Trimethoprim tabs 100mg 28	£0.17	-6	£0.25	-10

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Levothyroxine tabs 25µg 28	£0.72	+11	£1.06	+23
Co-codamol caps 30/500mg 100	£1.99	+2	£3.47	+22
Celiprolol tabs 400mg 28	£16.25	-3	£26.44	+12
Nizatidine caps 150mg 30	£1.80	+8	£2.77	+12
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£3.25	+23	£7.74	+10
Zolpidem tabs 10mg 28	£0.52	±0	£0.93	+9

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 June and 1-22 July 2008 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 1-30 June

and 1-22 July 2008 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 16 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.45	±0	£0.76	+3
Amlodipine maleate tabs 5mg 28	£0.29	-6	£0.36	-4
Amlodipine maleate tabs 10mg 28	£0.39	-7	£0.50	-3
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.32	-9	£0.75	+36
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.46	±0	£0.72	+10
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.89	-5	£1.35	-8
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.26	±0	£0.42	+3
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.25	+9	£0.32	-2
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.33	+3	£0.43	-2
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.47	+7	£0.60	+3
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.39	-1	£1.69	-7
Enalapril maleate tabs 20mg 28	£0.39	-7	£0.60	-2
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.60	±0	£2.37	-5
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.95	-4	£2.30	+3
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£1.40	+41	£2.66	+8
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.76	+10	£4.02	+5
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.57	+10	£0.87	+1
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.35	±0	£1.80	+1
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.18	±0	£0.27	-12
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.23	±0	£0.37	-7

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.42	±0	£0.58	-9
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.40	±0	£0.56	-4
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.15	+64	£2.06	+3
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.59	-2	£1.04	-3
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.64	+3	£0.92	+6
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£2.30	-22	£21.88	-11
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.01	±0	£1.84	-1
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.80	-6	£1.54	-9
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.05	-5	£2.26	-6
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.28	±0	£0.40	-7
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.38	+3	£0.51	±0
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.48	-8	£0.65	-4
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.35	±0	£0.56	-4
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.34	-38	£0.85	-6
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.09	±0	£0.15	-5
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.14	±0	£0.22	-2
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.41	+17	£0.53	-6
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.70	±0	£0.96	-4
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.05	±0	£1.92	+3
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.42	-5	£1.79	-2

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.

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