

Fallers outnumber risers this month

Fluoxetine prices tumbled in June for the second consecutive month, with both lowest and average prices dropping by double-digit amounts (*Generics bulletin*, 10 June 2011, page 31). Meanwhile, citalopram prices fell by a third as they moved back towards where they had been a year ago, before the recent product shortages. The average price of 30-capsule packs of fluoxetine 20mg slipped by 26% to £0.31 (US\$0.50) as 28-tablet packs of citalopram 20mg slipped in average price by 35% to £1.66 (see Figure 1).

Recent market entrant pramipexole 180µg saw the lower offer price slashed by a fifth while offers for the 700µg strength were withdrawn, lifting the lowest price by a similar amount. Average prices for both strengths were virtually unchanged.

Another product that has been in short supply – 28-tablet packs

of sertraline 100mg (*Generics bulletin*, 6 May 2011, page 12) – also experienced a sharp 11% fall in its average price, as well as a more dramatic 21% drop in its lowest trade price this month. Furosemide and prednisolone, which feature among the biggest fallers in Figure 2, have also had price increases in recent months. The average price of 28-tablet packs of prednisolone 5mg, for example, more than doubled in March to £5.47 (*Generics bulletin*, 8 April 2011, page 25).

Tamsulosin 400µg also took a hit to its average price this month, with a 21% cut to £1.12. This was achieved without a fall in the product's lowest price, however, giving it one of the closest ratios of average to lowest price of about 1.3-times.

Among all the price fallers there were some price risers, led by lofepramine whose average price went up by over a half (see Figure 3). **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Furosemide tabs 40mg 28	£0.10	±0	£0.18	-29
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£1.79	-10	£3.93	-25
Gabapentin caps 100mg 100	£5.49	+54	£10.25	-24
Furosemide tabs 20mg 28	£0.12	+9	£0.24	-23
Ferrous sulphate tabs 200mg 100	£0.50	±0	£0.98	-14
Cetirizine tabs 10mg 30	£0.18	±0	£0.73	-12

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Lofepramine tabs 70mg 56	£4.84	+35	£10.80	+51
Naftidrofuryl caps 100mg 84	£6.21	+108	£9.96	+49
Atenolol tabs 50mg 28	£0.13	+8	£0.23	+29
Tamoxifen tabs 10mg 30	£1.09	+16	£1.90	+24
Oxytetracycline tabs 250mg 28	£0.59	+69	£0.89	+16
Amiloride tabs 5mg 28	£0.31	+11	£0.56	+14

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 May 2011 and 1-27 June 2011 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 16 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 May

2011 and 1-27 June 2011 in lowest and average UK trade 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 12 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.32	-9	£0.43	-11
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.24	±0	£0.32	±0
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.49	+4	£0.61	-2
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.27	+8	£0.36	+5
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.69	-37	£1.66	-35
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£0.79	±0	£1.37	+2
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 30	£1.04	-1	£1.46	+3
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.21	-13	£0.33	-5
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.99	-9	£1.37	-6
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	£0.19	-10	£0.31	-26
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.54	+7	£1.90	-1
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.56	±0	£0.81	+1
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.99	-10	£2.80	±0
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.85	-3	£0.97	-4
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.37	+3	£0.47	±0
Losartan tabs 50mg 28	£0.37	±0	£0.57	±0
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.44	-2	£0.70	-1
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.47	±0	£0.71	+2
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£0.89	+1	£1.27	-2
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.59	±0	£0.70	-11
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£2.48	-8	£3.77	-7
Pantoprazole tabs 20mg 28	£0.43	+5	£0.63	+2
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£0.90	+1	£1.25	-1
Pramipexole tabs 180µg 30	£0.99	-21	£2.68	-2
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£5.42	+20	£9.35	-1

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.21	-5	£1.61	+2
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.49	-11	£0.68	-10
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.89	-5	£1.33	-15
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.69	-18	£1.37	-3
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£3.15	-21	£8.40	-11
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.24	±0	£0.36	-5
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.39	-3	£0.50	-3
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.68	±0	£0.93	-2
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£0.85	±0	£1.12	-21
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£0.97	-2	£1.39	-3
Topiramate tabs 50mg 60	£1.89	+2	£2.73	-7
Topiramate tabs 100mg 60	£2.55	-4	£4.06	-1
Venlafaxine tabs 37.5mg 56	£1.88	+5	£2.27	-4
Venlafaxine XL caps 75mg 28	£0.52	+6	£0.99	+2
Venlafaxine XL caps 150mg 28	£1.35	-3	£2.12	+12

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