

Fosinopril 10mg continues in short supply

Shortages of fosinopril 10mg continued to push up prices for the product in September, which also saw the trade price of 28-tablet packs of atorvastatin 20mg fall below the £1.00 (US\$1.60) threshold for the first time (see Figure 1).

For the fourth month running, fosinopril 10mg tablets were granted the 'no cheaper stock obtainable' (NCSO) concession by the Department of Health, allowing pharmacists to dispense and be reimbursed for a more expensive alternative to the generic. At the start of 2012, the product's average trade price was under £2, but it is now about eight times higher.

Meanwhile, the lowest price on offer for 28-tablet packs of atorvastatin fell by 14% to £0.99. This represented a 96% discount on the £24.64 trade price for the equivalent strength of Pfizer's Lipitor. It also offered a 63% margin on the Drug Tariff reimbursement price.

Average prices for pramipexole 350µg tablets in 100-count packs have had a seesaw few months. In August, the product was second in our 'biggest risers' table, with a 164% increase to £68.50 (**Generics bulletin**, 14 September 2012, page 23), but last month it was among the 'biggest fallers', with a 21% price decline to £54.34 (see Figure 2).

Methotrexate 2.5mg made two separate appearances in the 'biggest risers' table for the second month running, including one in the top spot (see Figure 3). The 28-tablet presentation was again given a price concession of £4.20 by the Department of Health, significantly less than the product's average trade price of £13.03. Steep average price rises for the three levofloxacin presentations among the 'biggest risers' were nearly matched by a 73% uplift in the average price of 10-tablet packs of levofloxacin 500mg.

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Risedronate sodium tabs 5mg 28	£1.47	-1	£2.53	-37
Ofloxacin tabs 200mg 10	£2.51	+2	£4.06	-35
Galantamine XL caps 24mg 28	£30.15	+1	£34.38	-23
Pramipexole tabs 350µg 100	£4.99	-15	£54.34	-21
Galantamine XL caps 16mg 28	£24.50	+2	£29.92	-20
Betahistine tabs 16mg 84	£3.99	+62	£8.31	-18

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Methotrexate tabs 2.5mg 28	£3.55	+167	£13.03	+167
Phenobarbital tabs 15mg 28	£0.81	±0	£2.70	+104
Levofloxacin tabs 250mg 5	£0.49	±0	£1.94	+86
Levofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.99	±0	£3.83	+86
Methotrexate tabs 2.5mg 100	£3.59	-8	£20.20	+81
Levofloxacin tabs 500mg 5	£0.99	±0	£3.26	+75

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 August 2012 and 1-30 September 2012 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 25 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31

August 2012 and 1-30 September 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 15 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.16	±0	£0.22	-9
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.79	+14	£6.12	±0
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.62	±0	£1.76	+42
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.99	-14	£1.49	-8
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.48	+2	£2.33	-2
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£1.89	-1	£2.38	-5
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£1.02	+4	£1.19	-4
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.79	-17	£1.35	-10
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.62	+16	£2.38	±0
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£6.85	-8	£9.47	-5
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£4.49	-32	£8.11	-2
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.65	-6	£0.95	-7
Fosinopril tabs 10mg 28	£5.21	+234	£15.06	+24
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.39	-11	£0.74	-3
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.25	-17	£2.17	-6
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.89	-1	£1.04	-8
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£1.50	-3	£2.22	-7
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.66	+2	£1.15	+10
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£1.22	-4	£1.95	-5
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£2.40	+2	£5.00	-12
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.89	+3	£1.12	-8
Mirtazapine orodisp. tabs 45mg 30	£1.45	-6	£1.93	-9
Moxonidine tabs 200µg 28	£1.49	±0	£2.43	-2
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£4.45	-18	£7.88	-7
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.89	+1	£1.57	±0

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.62	-5	£1.21	-4
Perindopril tabs 4mg 30	£0.90	+3	£1.23	-1
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£1.99	-10	£3.61	-15
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£2.27	+1	£4.34	-5
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.55	-7	£0.85	-7
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.99	±0	£2.05	+7
Risedronate sodium tabs 35mg 4	£0.41	-2	£0.62	+1
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.69	±0	£1.14	-2
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.32	±0	£0.59	+1
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£0.92	-2	£1.45	-1
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£0.94	-1	£1.40	+1
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.81	+1	£1.55	+7
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£1.10	-3	£1.68	-2
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£1.28	-9	£1.97	-9
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.59	±0	£1.82	-6

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.

