

October brings a general improvement

Prices generally improved in the UK market during October. Most of the 'fast movers' were more expensive on average than they had been in September, and their lowest prices were mainly unchanged or better (see Figure 1).

Simvastatin cost more in October, although double-digit price rises for its two lower strengths were worth little more than a few pence. Simvastatin 10mg in 28-tablet packs, for example, was 11% more costly, but it could still be bought for just £0.10 (US\$0.17).

Average prices for enalapril rose steeply, especially in its lower strengths (see Figures 1 and 3). No clear pattern emerged, however, as the lowest prices for enalapril 5mg, 10mg and 20mg fell in one

case, advanced in another, and grew strongly in the third.

More consistent were prices for four-tablet packs of alendronate 70mg. They bucked the general trend by declining markedly in average terms and also in the lowest price available. At £0.79, the average price of the monthly osteoporosis treatment gave independent pharmacists a 'purchase profit' of £1.03 – a profit margin of 57% – compared with the government's category M Drug Tariff reimbursement price. With Fosamax Once Weekly's trade price £22.80, the discount to Merck, Sharp and Dohme's brand was 97%.

While average prices of 28-tablet packs of ramipril 2.5mg and 5mg were falling, their lowest prices were the same (see Figure 2).

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Nicardipine caps 20mg 56	£1.84	+10	£2.84	-27
Nicardipine caps 30mg 56	£2.79	+6	£4.14	-22
Omeprazole tabs 4mg 7	£4.40	±0	£5.41	-20
Betahistine tabs 8mg 120	£0.44	-6	£0.92	-16
Ramipril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.10	±0	£0.93	-13
Ramipril tabs 5mg 28	£0.10	±0	£1.24	-13

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Metformin tabs 500mg 28	£0.14	+8	£0.31	+59
Furosemide tabs 40mg 28	£0.08	±0	£0.22	+53
Aspirin disp. tabs 75mg 28	£0.11	±0	£0.22	+53
Atenolol tabs 25mg 28	£0.09	±0	£0.23	+52
Enalapril tabs 5mg 28	£0.19	-5	£0.51	+43
Enalapril tabs 10mg 28	£0.34	+17	£0.63	+34

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-30 September and 1-22 October 2008 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 27 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-30 September

and 1-22 October 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 10 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.37	-12	£0.79	-13
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.26	±0	£0.38	+3
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.37	-3	£0.61	+9
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.31	±0	£0.90	+2
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.39	±0	£0.78	+1
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.27	-4	£0.54	+5
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.23	±0	£0.36	+2
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.33	+3	£0.48	+6
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.43	-2	£0.64	±0
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.39	±0	£2.16	-5
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.39	+3	£0.75	+24
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.60	±0	£2.25	-10
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.83	-8	£2.79	+1
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£2.16	±0	£3.36	+6
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£2.40	±0	£4.75	+4
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.85	+8	£1.31	+1
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.75	-2	£2.37	+4
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.21	+5	£0.29	+3
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.20	-20	£0.40	+2
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.40	+3	£0.60	+2

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.42	+5	£0.63	+3
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.12	+3	£2.04	-18
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.68	-6	£1.06	-19
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.69	+8	£1.12	-1
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£3.20	+8	£32.88	+4
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£0.95	+27	£1.98	+2
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.56	-8	£1.52	+3
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.22	+37	£2.16	+1
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.32	+14	£0.45	+10
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.38	-3	£0.54	+1
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.44	+13	£0.69	±0
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£2.28	+6	£4.38	-8
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.38	+6	£0.78	+15
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.54	+2	£1.06	-5
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.10	+11	£0.23	+19
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.18	+13	£0.37	+15
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.43	+8	£0.61	+4
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.76	±0	£1.04	-3
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.35	-13	£2.28	-1
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.44	+4	£1.72	+7

PRICE WATCH UK

highlights generics price changes in the UK market and appears exclusively in every issue of **Generics bulletin**, courtesy of WaveData. WaveData collects prices from across the UK for generics, brands and parallel imports. These prices are 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 market

prices and long-term trends. Current prices are published as wavedata.net; while the Pharma TouchStone service includes prices from recent months. WaveData's BPPI service tracks prices back as far as 2000.

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