

Pramipexole prices offer discounts of 90%

Both strengths of pramipexole in Figure 1 experienced dramatic falls in their average prices last month. Nearly a third was cut from the average prices of 30-count packs of pramipexole 180µg and 700µg tablets in November. This left them both offering more than 90% discounts to Boehringer Ingelheim's Mirapexin brand that had lost its exclusivity less than a year earlier in December 2010.

An average price of £1.46 (US\$2.30) for the 180µg generic represented a 92% discount on the equivalent Mirapexin product. More importantly for independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors, however, the average price offered them a 62% dispensing profit margin on the £3.84 Drug Tariff of reimbursement price.

Similarly, an average price of £4.82 for the stronger 700µg pramipexole product offered a 94% discount to the brand price. The

dispensing margin of 45% was less than for its weaker counterpart, but still represented a financial return of £3.98 for every pack sold.

Prices were relatively stable for other 'fast movers', although sertraline, and to a lesser extent citalopram, prices continued to tumble after the shortages earlier this year. Another exception was four-tablet packs of risedronate 35mg, whose average price fell by 10% to just £0.84. This was a 96% discount to Warner Chilcott's Actonel brand, and offered pharmacists a 49% dispensing margin.

Prices for 28-capsule packs of ramipril 10mg were almost unchanged in Figure 1, but tablet forms showed some of the month's larger price falls, as Figure 2 shows. Meanwhile, 10-tablet packs of ciprofloxacin 500mg had stable prices, but the average price rise of 11% for six-tablet packs of the 100mg strength featured in Figure 3. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£0.39	-20	£1.04	-27
Mebeverine tabs 135mg 100	£4.79	+34	£6.06	-24
Glimepiride tabs 3mg 30	£0.33	±0	£0.87	-24
Ramipril tabs 1.25mg 28	£0.26	±0	£0.54	-22
Paracetamol tabs 500mg 100	£0.33	±0	£0.42	-18
Ramipril tabs 10mg 28	£0.25	±0	£0.73	-17

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Tolbutamide tabs 500mg 28	£2.21	+45	£4.96	+15
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£3.21	-2	£4.91	+14
Salbutamol tabs 2mg 28	£17.43	-3	£25.49	+13
Bendroflumethiazide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.08	±0	£0.15	+12
Ciprofloxacin tabs 100mg 6	£0.64	±0	£1.18	+11
Levothyroxine tabs 25µg 28	£1.06	+12	£1.55	+11

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 October 2011 and 1-28 November 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

October 2011 and 1-28 November 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 31 data points (Source - WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.22	-4	£0.31	-5
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.21	+5	£0.29	±0
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.47	±0	£0.70	-12
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.30	+3	£0.41	+1
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.24	-8	£0.46	-11
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£0.50	-15	£1.30	-2
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 30	£1.09	±0	£1.39	+0
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.26	-4	£0.34	-2
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.86	-1	£1.06	-4
Fluoxetine caps 20mg 30	£0.20	+5	£0.30	-6
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.47	-1	£2.14	+15
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.54	-4	£0.81	-2
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.95	-2	£2.44	-10
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.78	±0	£0.89	±0
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.31	-3	£0.42	+1
Losartan tabs 50mg 28	£0.33	-6	£0.51	+2
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.38	±0	£0.64	+3
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.45	-2	£0.63	-3
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£0.78	-3	£1.10	±0
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.57	-2	£0.66	-4
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£2.35	-1	£3.79	-7
Pantoprazole tabs 20mg 28	£0.41	±0	£0.55	-3
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£0.83	+5	£1.04	-6
Pramipexole tabs 180µg 30	£0.77	±0	£1.46	-31
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£2.45	-6	£4.82	-30

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.95	+20	£1.32	-3
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.47	±0	£0.58	-1
Risedronate tabs 35mg 4	£0.59	-9	£0.84	-10
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.69	±0	£1.19	-1
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.69	-18	£1.87	-45
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.26	-4
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.30	-9	£0.41	-4
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.65	-2	£0.92	-5
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£0.75	-1	£0.93	-1
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£0.86	±0	£1.23	-3
Topiramate tabs 50mg 60	£1.33	-11	£2.40	-3
Topiramate tabs 100mg 60	£2.10	-7	£3.39	±0
Venlafaxine tabs 37.5mg 56	£1.65	-2	£2.23	+6
Venlafaxine XL caps 75mg 28	£0.49	±0	£0.85	-3
Venlafaxine XL caps 150mg 28	£1.28	+24	£1.69	+4

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.

