

# Pravastatin prices keep pushing upwards

Pravastatin's price recovery continued in August, when the average prices for all three strengths increased by more than a third. As Figure 1 shows, the average price for a 28-tablet pack of pravastatin 20mg was the best performer, leaping by more than a half during the month to top £2 (US\$3.8) for the first time in about a year.

Indeed, the product hit an all time low average price of £0.64 in January of this year, but since then its price had been steadily recovering until last month's surge. Average prices for the other two strengths have behaved in the same fashion.

In complete contrast, simvastatin prices – comparable to pravastatin's in January – have resolutely failed to rise. It was possible

to buy simvastatin 10mg for £0.17 at the start of the year, and it would have cost £0.21 in August, still less than £0.01 per tablet.

Lansoprazole prices also started to move up sharply last month, reflecting the supply developments forecasted in July (**Generics bulletin**, 14 July 2006, page 15). Citalopram prices also surged in August, but those for lamotrigine and sertraline generally continued their steady declines.

For the second month running, 100-capsule packs of gabapentin 300mg headed the list of 'biggest risers', with a massive 103% average price rise, almost matched by the 100mg strength (see Figure 3). The higher strength could be bought for £4.84 on average in June. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Fluconazole caps 50mg 7	£0.23	±0	£0.52	-38
Omeprazole tabs 20mg 28	£6.01	+5	£7.56	-24
Nitrazepam tabs 5mg 28	£0.16	±0	£0.26	-15
Glibenclamide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.13	±0	£0.23	-14
Captopril tabs 12.5mg 56	£0.20	±0	£0.39	-14
Diazepam tabs 5mg 28	£0.11	±0	£0.20	-13

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£3.60	+14	£12.63	+103
Gabapentin caps 100mg 100	£3.12	+31	£7.93	+79
Betahistine tabs 8mg 120	£0.52	+11	£1.51	+48
Betahistine tabs 16mg 84	£0.87	+19	£2.49	+41
Fluconazole caps 150mg 1	£0.20	±0	£0.49	+23
Co-Amilofruse tabs 2.5mg/20mg 28	£0.25	-4	£0.53	+20

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 July and 1-31 August 2006 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 34 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 July and

1-31 August 2006 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 11 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS					FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)	Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£3.35	+34	£7.91	+25	Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£2.49	+26	£5.18	+66
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.49	-4	£0.90	+5	Lisinopril tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.13	+8	£0.25	-4
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.68	-11	£1.36	+11	Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.15	+7	£0.31	-1
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.50	+32	£1.11	-12	Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.21	+5	£0.48	+3
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.75	+36	£1.37	-1	Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.42	+5	£0.78	+7
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.85	+33	£1.40	-10	Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.88	+1	£1.58	+6
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.86	+1	£1.74	-10	Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.95	+3	£2.55	+29
Ciprofloxacin tabs 250mg 10	£0.25	+9	£0.47	-2	Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£2.39	+2	£3.57	+5
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.28	±0	£0.60	-2	Pravastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.70	+46	£1.37	+37
Ciprofloxacin tabs 750mg 10	£0.69	+1	£1.28	+1	Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.85	+13	£2.11	+51
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.67	+3	£1.44	+33	Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.91	+3	£3.52	+42
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£1.16	+22	£2.02	+34	Ramipril caps 1.25mg 28	£0.30	+50	£0.50	-3
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.97	+29	£2.24	+23	Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.40	+82	£0.62	-3
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£0.89	-15	£2.48	-10	Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.50	-4	£0.76	-7
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£3.49	+8	£5.08	-9	Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.66	±0	£0.97	-1
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£1.25	+25	£3.22	-21	Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.85	+9	£1.74	-18
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£1.99	-13	£4.84	-25	Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£1.39	-2	£3.18	-11
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£3.20	+2	£8.36	-22	Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.21	±0	£0.49	+6
Lamotrigine tabs 200mg 56	£6.67	-6	£18.00	-14	Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.29	-22	£0.69	-4
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£1.42	+53	£3.32	+79	Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.96	+3	£1.59	+9

**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 as its Pharma TouchStone service. This is designed to give customers of the service fast, accurate, real-time access to current generic prices.

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