

Prices on the rise at the start of 2009

Average prices were rising for many UK generics at the beginning of the New Year. Nearly all of the average prices of 'fast movers' were higher in the period until 20 January than they had been in December. Only 56-tablet packs of lamotrigine 100mg and 28-capsule packs of lansoprazole 15mg and 30mg bucked the trend.

Some of the steepest price increases in Figure 1 were registered by carvedilol, which also featured among the 'biggest risers' in Figure 3. It was difficult to determine a pattern, however, when 28-tablet packs of carvedilol 6.25mg could still be bought by independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors for £0.30 (US\$0.41), yet the average price of the same product had rocketed up by 28% to £1.09. Similarly, carvedilol 3.125mg was priced 21% lower by one supplier, but the product's average price grew by more than a quarter.

Pravastatin prices were on the rise in January, particularly for 28-tablet packs of pravastatin 20mg, whose lowest price rose by 60%. Ondansetron and tamsulosin also had average price rises of about a quarter – about £7.00 for ondansetron – even if their lowest prices were little changed.

Only two average price falls were greater than single digits (see Figure 2). The fall in the average price of 28-tablet packs of omeprazole 10mg was only 4%, but more interesting was the continuing disparity between the tablet and capsule forms of the drug. Omeprazole 10mg capsules – the original form of AstraZeneca's Losec – were nearly five-times less expensive at £1.11 than the tablets at £5.33. Both versions of the brand have a trade price of £19.34, giving a generic capsule discount to the brand of 94%, but only 72% for the tablet form. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Gliclazide tabs 80mg 28	£0.22	+5	£0.55	-22
Salbutamol CFC free 100µg 200	£1.16	-2	£1.27	-10
Diclofenac tabs 50mg 84	£0.47	-6	£0.75	-9
Levothyroxine tabs 25µg 28	£1.10	+8	£1.42	-6
Omeprazole tabs 10mg 28	£3.89	-8	£5.33	-4
Cimetidine tabs 400mg 60	£0.66	-23	£1.63	-3

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 December 2008 and 1-20 January 2009 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 26 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Doxazosin tabs 2mg 28	£0.12	-20	£0.47	+31
Ranitidine tabs 300mg 30	£0.24	-11	£0.76	+30
Ondansetron tabs 8mg 10	£1.49	-5	£21.63	+30
Glimepiride tabs 1mg 30	£0.25	-11	£1.09	+28
Carvedilol tabs 3.125mg 28	£0.19	-21	£0.99	+28
Digoxin tabs 250µg 28	£0.10	±0	£0.68	+25

December 2008 and 1-20 January 2009 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 18 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.28	-3	£0.63	+5
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.35	+1
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.34	+6	£0.51	+4
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.30	±0	£1.09	+28
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.36	+3	£0.87	+11
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.28	+22	£0.61	+11
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.23	±0	£0.49	+5
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.38	±0	£0.74	+15
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.41	-2	£0.83	+5
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.26	-7	£2.44	+10
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.34	±0	£0.70	+10
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.52	-5	£2.30	+5
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.72	-4	£3.05	+19
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£1.95	-10	£3.25	+5
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£3.30	-3	£4.63	±0
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.79	±0	£1.20	±0
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.58	±0	£2.14	±0
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.18	±0	£0.29	+9
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.22	-4	£0.39	+9
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.36	-8	£0.60	+6
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.39	±0	£0.62	+10
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.05	-5	£1.93	+6
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.63	-2	£1.11	+10
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.63	-2	£0.89	+3
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£2.10	-5	£31.69	+28

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£0.95	+7	£1.99	+10
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.88	+60	£1.58	+10
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.39	+10	£2.21	+9
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.26	-4	£0.40	+1
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.32	+3	£0.51	+3
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.50	-4	£0.68	+2
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£1.65	+3	£4.35	+10
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.33	+3	£0.68	+11
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.48	-4	£0.95	+7
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.10	-9	£0.24	+6
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.16	±0	£0.34	+7
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.43	+5	£0.61	+4
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.75	±0	£1.29	+12
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.43	+2	£2.48	+24
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.20	-4	£1.70	+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.

