

Prices rise, although bargains available

Average prices among faster-moving products in the UK market generally registered an upward trend in November compared with a month earlier. The price rises were relatively modest, however, although there were a few exceptions.

The biggest average price rise in Figure 1 – that of six-tablet packs of sumatriptan 50mg – was 20% to £1.75 (US\$3.54). However, this was despite a 19% fall in the lowest price available to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors. This indicates one supplier had some short-dated or excess stock. Prices for 30-tablet packs of ondansetron 4mg showed a similar trend, with the lowest price dropping as fast as the average price was rising. At least one offer on 28-capsule

packs of ramipril 2.5mg was also available in a rising market.

In contrast, bargains were withdrawn for 28-capsule packs of omeprazole 10mg. However, the average price dropped slightly. This suggests a crowded market with rivals trying to match at least one low-cost supplier, who at the same time was changing his tactics.

At least one supplier of four-tablet packs of alendronate 70mg slashed his price by almost a third, which had the effect of cutting the average price. Similarly, a fifth was added to the lowest price for 28-tablet packs of simvastatin 10mg and the average price rose.

Average price falls in Figure 2 barely got into double figures, but the highest risers in Figure 3 moved up by a third or more. **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Amoxicillin caps 250mg 21	£0.43	-4	£0.65	-14
Fluconazole caps 200mg 7	£0.95	±0	£1.82	-14
Bumetanide tabs 1mg 28	£0.72	-19	£1.27	-12
Amoxicillin caps 500mg 21	£0.75	+9	£0.98	-12
Alendronate tabs 10mg 28	£1.93	-22	£3.73	-10
Clomipramine caps 25mg 28	£1.79	+9	£2.25	-7

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 October and 1-30 November 2007 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 47 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 (%)
Aspirin tabs 300mg 100	£0.99	±0	£2.56	+47
Penicillamine tabs 250mg 56	£7.90	+10	£12.43	+33
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£0.99	+10	£2.91	+32
Lamotrigine tabs 25mg 56	£0.72	-9	£1.66	+31
Gabapentin caps 300mg 100	£12.95	+13	£19.46	+27
Penicillamine tabs 125mg 56	£5.39	+29	£7.71	+26

October and 1-30 November 2007 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 22 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	£0.89	-31	£1.80	-7	Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.54	+8	£0.82	±0
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.34	-6	£0.52	+3	Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.35	-13	£0.56	+15
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.50	-6	£0.70	-3	Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.25	-2	£2.26	+8
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.40	±0	£0.73	+18	Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£1.02	+31	£1.68	-3
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.53	-2	£0.85	+7	Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.99	+8	£1.80	-10
Carvedilol tabs 25mg 28	£0.89	+6	£1.51	+17	Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£2.45	-17	£21.95	+18
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.26	-7	£0.46	+4	Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£1.30	-6	£2.10	+12
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.27	-4	£0.46	+15	Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.55	-3	£2.36	+2
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.35	-5	£0.54	+9	Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£2.59	±0	£3.71	-3
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.51	-2	£0.82	+9	Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.30	-21	£0.57	+6
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.45	-3	£2.05	+6	Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.45	+2	£0.79	+19
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.38	+9	£0.66	+12	Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.60	-2	£0.91	+3
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.59	-3	£2.47	+6	Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.38	±0	£0.81	+5
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£1.47	-10	£3.08	+1	Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.56	±0	£1.21	+16
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£0.93	±0	£2.29	+19	Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.11	+22	£0.20	+15
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.65	±0	£3.19	+8	Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.19	±0	£0.29	+2
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.79	-7	£1.16	+3	Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.53	+2	£0.81	+6
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.70	-3	£2.12	+2	Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.69	-19	£1.75	+20
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.24	+20	£0.43	+7	Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.45	-13	£2.26	+2
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.33	+6	£0.55	+2	Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.50	±0	£2.16	+12

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 giving customers fast, accurate, real-time access to current generic prices. WaveData's Profesy price-forecasting tool can be found at www.wavedata.biz.

■ **For further information** see www.wavedata.net or contact Charles Joynson, WaveData Limited, Concorde House, Comet Way, Eastwood, Essex SS2 6GD, UK Tel: +44 (0)1702 425125; Fax +44(0)1702 425129; E-mail cjoynson@wavedata.co.uk. Website: www.wavedata.co.uk.