

## Two price rises liven up an otherwise quiet September



A quiet month in general for price risers or fallers, September did see significant price rises for two key products: chlorpromazine and amlodipine tabs.

### Risers

During the month nearly every supplier of chlorpromazine 25mg, 50mg and 100mg tabs x 28 introduced big price increases – and by a significant amount: between £20 and £50. Price concessions ranging between £28-£35 followed, in what is believed to be a reaction to UK supply difficulties with Dr Reddy and Bristol Labs in India.

Many suppliers also increased their prices for amlodipine besilate tabs 5mg x28 during September, in many cases to above £2. The best offers below £1.00 remaining in the market were from Alliance, OTC Direct, Phoenix, Numark, AAH, Trident and Ethigen. The increases did not affect the maleate salt of amlodipine.

### Fallers

During the month, the average price of phenytoin caps 50mg x28 fell as some short-line wholesalers halved prices. Offers of between £12-£15 are declining in number, while those in the region of £7 are becoming more common. The best offers in September were from Beta and AAH.

Despite the price rise announced for the October drug tariff, the average price of quinapril tabs 20mg x28 fell by 43 per cent in September, driven by price reductions by Numark. Good prices could be obtained from Numark, Teva, Eclipse and Ethigen.

In September pregabalin caps 200mg x84 saw price reductions by lots of companies, accompanied by a concession price drop to £12. This accompanied a reduction in the drug tariff price from £3.60 to £2.93. The best offers below £10 were available from Numark, Phoenix, Purepharm, Mawdsleys and CrossPharma.

### Dispensing doctors vs pharmacists

Compared to pharmacies, dispensing doctors received the best generics offers in August, which is the most recent dataset available. The usual battle for best prices for parallel imports continues.