

Very steep metoprolol price rises make their mark during February

Making the headlines during February were the five packs of candesartan tabs which joined the month's price risers as well as some very steep price rises for metoprolol tabs 100x28. In the other camp were the 19 suppliers which reduced prices for propranolol tabs.

Compared to pharmacies, dispensing practices achieved better purchase prices for both generics and parallel imports, according to the latest analysis of relative market trends.

Risers

Some of February's metoprolol tab price rises were very steep, indeed: some reached more than ten times their January levels. The £1.70 pharmacy concession price was soon exceeded, with the average reaching £2.23 in February. In total, eight companies increased prices and none put prices down although a few kept prices stable. The best remaining deals in February below £0.80 were from DE, Trident, Alliance, Medihealth North, Eclipse and AAH.

During the month five suppliers increased prices for candesartan tabs 4mg x7, with only one keeping prices at January's level. The best February deals below £1.00 were from Ethigen, Numark and AAH.

A £3.99 concession price was granted for candesartan tabs 32mg x28 as the market saw price increases from eight companies; others were a mixed bag of price reductions or no changes. Overall the net result was a 156 per cent price increase. The best February offers below £3.00 were from Numark, Medihealth North, Nalchem, Ethigen, Teva and Purepharm. A certain amount of short-dated very cheap stock could also be found, with prices as low as £0.04!

Fallers

During the month ten companies decreased their offer prices for terbinafine tabs 250mg x28, six suppliers kept their prices the same and one put its prices up. The result was a 61 per cent decrease in the average price. The best February offers below £1.30 were from Beta, Medihealth North, B&S, Trident, DE, Crosspharm, Eclipse and Elite. In addition to these offers, Beta and Chemilines both had short dated stock available (expiry June) with prices from £0.99.

The 54 per cent price decrease for citalopram tabs 10mg x28 in February was due primarily to Teva dramatically reducing its prices. Most other suppliers kept their prices pretty much as they had been in January. The best deals in February below £0.25 were from Teva, Ethigen, Numark, Beta, Cambrian, Eclipse, Lexon, OTC Direct and B&S.

Propranolol tabs 40mg x28 saw 19 suppliers reduce, one increase and two maintain prices in February. The net result was a 51 per cent decrease in average prices. The best February deals below £0.90 were from Aver, Medihealth North, Target, Eclipse, Cambrian, Ethigen, Lexon, Crosspharma, Elite and Chemilines.

