

Citalopram bucks the average price trend

In the period leading up to the Easter break, prices offered to independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors for many of the faster-moving UK generics products were relatively stable compared with a month earlier. As Figure 1 shows, there were as many upward price movements as there were price declines, but very few in either direction reached double digits.

One notable exception was citalopram, whose average prices rose sharply for all three strengths. The average price of 28-tablet packs of citalopram 10mg, for example, increased by 17% to £0.64 (US\$0.93). The current Drug Tariff pharmacy reimbursement price, however, is £1.08, which meant that pharmacists and dispensing doctors were still making a 41% dispensing profit margin on their average purchase price for the drug.

Some citalopram suppliers maintained their low prices last month in the face of increases elsewhere. The best offer for citalopram 10mg remained unchanged at £0.26, or less than £0.01 per tablet. One supplier had some short-dated stock of the highest 40mg strength, and was offering it for a penny a pack less than the best price for the lower 20mg strength.

The supplier of simvastatin 10mg tablets at a halfpenny a tablet withdrew its offer, but at £0.16 for 28 tablets, simvastatin 10mg remains one of the lowest-priced products on the UK market.

Average prices for two enalapril strengths fell during April (see Figures 1 and 2). The lowest prices of the two products also fell.

Average prices of prednisolone 1mg and 5mg tablets rose quickly during April, ahead of any other product (see Figure 3). **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Digoxin tabs 250µg 28	£0.25	-4	£0.58	-12
Digoxin tabs 125µg 28	£0.25	-4	£0.59	-10
Beclometasone 100µg (200 dose)	£1.75	-12	£3.15	-10
Ibuprofen tabs 400mg 84	£0.58	+2	£0.82	-10
Co-codamol tabs 8mg/500mg 100	£0.62	-2	£0.87	-8
Enalapril tabs 5mg 28	£0.18	-5	£0.33	-8

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Prednisolone tabs 1mg 28	£0.14	-7	£0.42	+30
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£0.21	±0	£0.50	+23
Folic acid tabs 5mg 28	£0.15	±0	£0.40	+22
Chloramphenicol oint. 1% 4g	£1.18	+34	£1.83	+17
Amoxicillin 250mg/5ml 100ml	£0.49	±0	£0.88	+14
Imipramine tabs 25mg 28	£0.27	±0	£0.80	+13

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 March and 1-22 April 2009 of the lowest and average UK market prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 30 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 March and 1-22

April 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 19 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.28	±0	£0.51	-7
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.22	±0	£0.32	-6
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.32	+3	£0.45	±0
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.29	+16	£0.71	+3
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.36	-3	£0.80	±0
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.27	-4	£0.63	+6
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.26	±0	£0.64	+17
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.46	+5	£0.85	+14
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.45	-8	£1.03	+13
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.28	-2	£2.37	+5
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.34	-3	£0.51	-10
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.48	-5	£2.22	+2
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.56	-22	£2.61	-3
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£1.98	+5	£3.12	+1
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£3.24	+5	£4.41	-4
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.79	+5	£1.07	+2
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.50	±0	£1.86	-3
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.16	-6	£0.27	+2
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.20	±0	£0.37	+2
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.34	-3	£0.67	+20
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.37	±0	£0.57	±0
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.08	-2	£1.93	+8
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.65	±0	£1.16	+7
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£0.65	±0	£0.79	-1
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£1.77	-3	£34.30	+9

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£0.75	-5	£1.66	-6
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.89	+5	£1.43	-2
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.39	+7	£2.12	-2
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.26	-4	£0.45	+3
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.34	-3	£0.56	+1
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.49	-2	£0.70	±0
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£1.27	-9	£3.77	+2
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.30	-9	£0.73	+6
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.45	+7	£0.98	+5
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.16	+14	£0.26	±0
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.21	-5	£0.35	+3
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.45	±0	£0.61	+3
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.72	-4	£1.12	+5
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£1.25	-3	£1.94	-3
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.18	-11	£1.68	-2

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