

Fosinopril shortages inflate trade prices

Fosinopril 10mg tablets were given the 'no cheaper stock obtainable' (NCSO) concession by the Department of Health in August for the third month running. The concession acknowledged a shortage of the product and allowed pharmacists to dispense and be reimbursed for a more expensive alternative to the generic. As Figure 1 shows, average trade prices for the antihypertensive rose by another 45% last month to reach £12.12 (US\$19.31), more than five-times higher than they had been at the start of the year.

Methotrexate 2.5mg tablets were also given an NCSO concession in August, as Figure 3 indicates. Average price rises of 181% for 28-tablet packs and 154% for 100-tablet packs were a reflection of the problems pharmacists and dispensing doctors were having obtaining supplies, and why the Drug Tariff pharmacy reimbursement price of

£2.31 was wholly inadequate to compensate them for their trouble.

Propylthiouracil 50mg tablets were also given NCSO status, while 28-tablet packs of tolbutamide 500mg were granted a price concession of £22.50, which compared with a Drug Tariff price of £14.78.

Meanwhile, levetiracetam 500mg tablets in 60-count packs were 17% cheaper on average in August than they had been in July. This was partially the result of the lowest price on offer falling by 41% to less than half of the average price. Similar price cuts were experienced by other levetiracetam strengths, as Figure 2 shows.

Noting the large number of short-dated price offers recently, WaveData has pointed out that the lowest price for 30-tablet packs of pramipexole 700µg was actually £2.25 in both July and August, and not £0.99 in July as stated (*Generics bulletin*, 3 August 2012, page 23). **G**

BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Rivastigmine caps 6mg 28	£10.90	-9	£16.51	-22
Levetiracetam tabs 1g 60	£6.48	-26	£12.63	-21
Pioglitazone tabs 30mg 28	£3.25	-2	£5.49	-21
Levetiracetam tabs 250mg 60	£1.85	-7	£3.55	-20
Rivastigmine caps 4.5mg 28	£10.90	-9	£16.31	-18
Rivastigmine caps 3mg 28	£10.90	-9	£16.29	-18

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Methotrexate tabs 2.5mg 28	£1.33	+565	£4.88	+181
Pramipexole tabs 350µg 100	£5.89	+97	£68.50	+164
Methotrexate tabs 2.5mg 100	£3.91	+15	£10.18	+154
Pramipexole tabs 350µg 30	£1.70	±0	£16.87	+89
Furosemide tabs 40mg 28	£0.10	±0	£0.23	+52
Aspirin E/C tabs 75mg 28	£0.14	±0	£0.28	+50

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 July 2012 and 1-31 August 2012 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 25 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 July 2012 and

1-31 August 2012 in lowest and average UK trade prices of about 748 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 12 data points (Source – WaveData).

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Alendronate tabs 70mg 4	£0.16	-6	£0.24	+1
Alfuzosin tabs 2.5mg 60	£4.20	-13	£6.13	±0
Anastrozole tabs 1mg 28	£0.62	+7	£1.24	±0
Atorvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.15	-7	£1.62	-12
Bicalutamide tabs 50mg 28	£1.45	-3	£2.38	-1
Clarithromycin tabs 500mg 14	£1.90	-3	£2.51	-4
Clopidogrel tabs 75mg 28	£0.98	-7	£1.24	+1
Donepezil tabs 10mg 28	£0.95	-4	£1.49	-6
Dorzolamide eye drops 2% 5ml	£1.40	-15	£2.39	-1
Esomeprazole tabs 40mg 28	£7.45	-6	£9.96	-5
Exemestane tabs 25mg 30	£6.58	+1	£8.27	+2
Finasteride tabs 5mg 28	£0.69	±0	£1.03	+1
Fosinopril tabs 10mg 28	£1.56	+9	£12.12	+45
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.44	±0	£0.76	+4
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£1.50	-9	£2.32	+1
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£0.90	-6	£1.13	+4
Latanoprost eye drops .005% 2.5ml	£1.55	-3	£2.39	+3
Lercanidipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.65	-20	£1.05	-5
Letrozole tabs 2.5mg 14	£1.27	-6	£2.05	+10
Levetiracetam tabs 500mg 60	£2.35	-41	£5.67	-17
Losartan tabs 100mg 28	£0.86	-13	£1.21	-5
Mirtazapine orodisp. tabs 45mg 30	£1.54	±0	£2.12	+3
Moxonidine tabs 200µg 28	£1.49	-13	£2.48	-2
Mycophenolate tabs 500mg 50	£5.45	-5	£8.50	+1
Nebivolol tabs 5mg 28	£0.88	+22	£1.57	+19

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Olanzapine tabs 5mg 28	£0.65	-13	£1.26	±0
Perindopril tabs 4mg 30	£0.87	±0	£1.24	+11
Pioglitazone tabs 15mg 28	£2.20	-32	£4.23	-17
Pramipexole tabs 700µg 30	£2.25	±0	£4.56	-2
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.59	±0	£0.92	-2
Quetiapine tabs 25mg 60	£0.99	±0	£1.92	-12
Risedronate sodium tabs 35mg 4	£0.42	+40	£0.62	+1
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.69	-3	£1.16	-1
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.32	±0	£0.58	+7
Sumatriptan tabs 100mg 6	£0.94	-5	£1.47	+3
Terbinafine cream 1% 15g	£0.95	±0	£1.39	+3
Topiramate tabs 25mg 60	£0.80	-2	£1.44	+5
Trandolapril caps 2mg 28	£1.13	-10	£1.72	-1
Valsartan caps 80mg 28	£1.40	-7	£2.16	±0
Zolmitriptan tabs 2.5mg 6	£0.59	±0	£1.93	-1

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