

Omeprazole moves into line with Tariff

Omeprazole capsule prices have been steadily returning to their levels of six months ago, before their sudden surge at the end of last year in response to shortages of 28-capsule packs of omeprazole 20mg (**Generics bulletin**, 1 February 2010, page 19).

Average prices of the product fell by a fifth last month to £2.00 (US\$3.06). While this was more than double the £0.85 recorded last October, it was marginally below the Drug Tariff reimbursement price of £2.04 for April. And if independent pharmacists and dispensing doctors were prepared to shop around, the product was available for £1.49, a fall of 15% on a month earlier. Similar price falls were also evident for the 10mg strength (see Figure 1).

Another rapid average price fall compared with last month was experienced by 30-tablet packs of ondansetron 4mg, despite the fact

that their Drug Tariff reimbursement price had been marginally increased at the start of the month. Pharmacists in England and Wales were paid £75.44 for dispensing the category A medicine in April, an average profit margin of 87% or £65.52 per pack.

Average prices of amlodipine fell by about a fifth in April, backed up by double-digit declines in the lowest prices available. The antihypertensive in its higher 10mg strength can now be bought for just £0.02 per tablet on average. Meanwhile, glimepiride experienced similar average price falls. As Figure 2 shows, average prices of 30-tablet packs of glimepiride 3mg fell by about a quarter in April.

Meanwhile, the average price of 28-tablet packs of glibenclamide 5mg more than doubled, and that for the lower 2.5mg strength increased by a fifth (see Figure 3).

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BIGGEST FALLERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Prednisolone tabs 5mg 28	£0.22	-4	£0.42	-26
Glimepiride tabs 3mg 30	£0.33	±0	£1.23	-23
Captopril tabs 12.5mg 56	£0.20	-29	£0.45	-22
Prochlorperazine tabs 5mg 84	£0.94	-5	£1.79	-22
Lamotrigine disp. tabs 100mg 56	£3.35	+29	£4.49	-22
Loratadine tabs 10mg 30	£0.35	±0	£0.49	-21

Figure 1 (below): Comparison between the periods 1-31 March 2010 and 1-28 April 2010 of the lowest and average UK trade prices of fast-moving generics. Each average price was calculated from at least 18 data points. Figure 2 (above) and Figure 3 (above right): Biggest changes recorded between the periods 1-31 March

BIGGEST RISERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Glibenclamide tabs 5mg 28	£0.16	+7	£0.45	+102
Doxazosin tabs 4mg 28	£0.52	-5	£1.13	+30
Glibenclamide tabs 2.5mg 28	£0.14	±0	£0.24	+21
Loperamide caps 2mg 30	£0.26	+18	£0.44	+14
Timolol eye drops 0.25% 5ml	£0.48	+4	£0.69	+12
Furosemide tabs 40mg 28	£0.09	+13	£0.16	+11

2010 and 1-28 April 2010 in lowest and average UK trade 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	£0.20	±0	£0.26	-8
Amlodipine tabs 5mg 28	£0.23	-12	£0.46	-21
Amlodipine tabs 10mg 28	£0.34	-13	£0.56	-18
Carvedilol tabs 6.25mg 28	£0.38	±0	£0.52	-1
Carvedilol tabs 12.5mg 28	£0.46	±0	£0.63	-6
Ciprofloxacin tabs 500mg 10	£0.28	+4	£0.47	-16
Citalopram tabs 10mg 28	£0.24	±0	£0.38	-7
Citalopram tabs 20mg 28	£0.34	-3	£0.45	-7
Citalopram tabs 40mg 28	£0.45	+2	£0.66	-9
Clarithromycin tabs 250mg 14	£1.24	+6	£1.69	-1
Enalapril tabs 20mg 28	£0.31	-6	£0.64	+14
Fosinopril tabs 20mg 28	£1.55	+1	£2.06	±0
Glimepiride tabs 4mg 30	£0.61	+2	£1.07	-19
Lamotrigine tabs 50mg 56	£1.70	+3	£2.47	-1
Lamotrigine tabs 100mg 56	£2.81	±0	£4.05	+1
Lansoprazole caps 15mg 28	£0.57	-3	£0.87	+18
Lansoprazole caps 30mg 28	£1.23	-1	£1.58	±0
Lisinopril tabs 5mg 28	£0.15	±0	£0.24	-10
Lisinopril tabs 10mg 28	£0.18	-5	£0.29	-9
Lisinopril tabs 20mg 28	£0.35	±0	£0.46	-9
Metformin tabs 500mg 84	£0.37	-5	£0.48	-9
Mirtazapine tabs 30mg 28	£1.09	±0	£1.56	-8
Omeprazole caps 10mg 28	£0.99	-13	£1.50	-10
Omeprazole caps 20mg 28	£1.49	-15	£2.00	-21
Ondansetron tabs 4mg 30	£2.54	+3	£9.92	-43

FAST MOVERS				
Product/Strength/Pack size	Lowest price	Change (%)	Average price	Change (%)
Paroxetine tabs 20mg 30	£0.74	+25	£1.36	-4
Pravastatin tabs 20mg 28	£1.23	-5	£1.62	-4
Pravastatin tabs 40mg 28	£1.59	-2	£2.24	-4
Ramipril caps 2.5mg 28	£0.28	+4	£0.38	-22
Ramipril caps 5mg 28	£0.34	+3	£0.49	-5
Ramipril caps 10mg 28	£0.49	±0	£0.72	+3
Risperidone tabs 2mg 60	£0.84	±0	£1.64	-7
Sertraline tabs 50mg 28	£0.34	±0	£0.59	-16
Sertraline tabs 100mg 28	£0.48	-4	£0.78	-14
Simvastatin tabs 10mg 28	£0.18	+13	£0.23	-5
Simvastatin tabs 20mg 28	£0.25	+19	£0.30	-1
Simvastatin tabs 40mg 28	£0.45	-4	£0.55	-11
Sumatriptan tabs 50mg 6	£0.72	±0	£1.03	-13
Tamsulosin caps 400µg 30	£0.89	±0	£1.35	-11
Terbinafine tabs 250mg 14	£1.24	±0	£1.48	±0

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