



Appendix B:

*International comparison of  
selected drug prices* provided by  
PricewaterhouseCoopers



## International comparison of selected drug prices

Medicine price comparisons for drugs available in the Australian and UK markets for the highest volume drugs on the PBS are shown in the table below.

The UK prices are based on those reported by the National Health Service in the Electronic Drug Tariff January 2010. These prices are converted into Australian dollars based on the average exchange rate in 2009, which was 0.504442.

This comparison should be treated with caution. Prices in different markets reflect a large range of factors, from market size to distribution networks. There are also differences in product forms, strengths, and pack sizes that are made available in different markets.

The comparison shows that for many of the highest volume drugs on the PBS, Australian prices are higher than those available in the UK. It also shows that in some cases Australian prices are lower than those available in UK, reflecting the differences in the two markets and the diverse influences on in-country prices for medicines.

**Table 1 Price comparisons between the UK and Australia for the 10 top volume drugs on the PBS**

Drug	Form and strength	UK price per pack	UK price in AUD	Commonwealth Dispensed Price for Maximum Quantity	Difference in Australian prices
Atenolol	Tab 50 mg	£0.92	\$1.82	\$10.27	1016.3%
Atorvastatin	Lipitor_Tab 10mg	£13.00	\$25.77	\$42.70	65.7%
	Lipitor_Tab 20mg	£24.64	\$48.85	\$58.00	18.7%
	Lipitor_Tab 40mg	£24.64	\$48.85	\$79.05	61.8%
	Lipitor_Tab 80mg	£28.21	\$55.92	\$110.25	97.1%
Esomeprazole	Nexium_Tab 20mg	£18.50	\$36.67	\$38.54	5.1%
	Nexium_Tab 40mg	£25.19	\$49.94	\$58.67	17.5%
Irbesartan	Aprovel_Tab 75mg	£9.89	\$19.61	\$21.11	7.7%

## Appendix B

International comparison of selected drug prices provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers

Drug	Form and strength	UK price per pack	UK price in AUD	Commonwealth Dispensed Price for Maximum Quantity	Difference in Australian prices
	Aprovel_Tab 150mg	£12.08	\$23.95	\$25.15	5.0%
	Aprovel_Tab 300mg	£16.25	\$32.21	\$30.24	-6.1%
Metformin Hydrochloride	Glucophage_T ab 500mg	£6.58	\$13.04	\$13.09	0.4%
	Metformin HCl_Tab 850mg	£1.38	\$2.74	\$13.09	378.5%
Pantoprazole	Tab E/C 20mg	£9.45	\$18.73	\$22.37	19.4%
	Tab E/C 40mg	£16.43	\$32.57	\$39.14	20.2%
Paracetamol	Paracet_Tab 500mg	£1.58	\$3.13	\$8.42	168.8%
Rosuvastatin Calcium	Crestor_Tab 5mg	£18.03	\$35.74	\$51.18	43.2%
	Crestor_Tab 10mg	£18.03	\$35.74	\$69.91	95.6%
	Crestor_Tab 20mg	£26.02	\$51.58	\$96.43	86.9%
	Crestor_Tab 40mg	£29.69	\$58.86	\$134.44	128.4%
Perindopril Arginine	Coversyl_Tab 2.5mg	£9.09	\$18.02	\$12.73	-29.4%
	Coversyl_Tab 5mg	£10.22	\$20.26	\$18.14	-10.5%
	Coversyl_Tab 10mg	£11.36	\$22.52	\$24.34	8.1%
Simvastatin	Tab 10mg	£0.91	\$1.80	\$25.04	1288.0%
	Tab 20mg	£1.00	\$1.98	\$33.2	1574.7%
	Tab 40mg	£1.38	\$2.74	\$44.45	1524.8%
	Tab 80mg	£2.96	\$5.87	\$59.42	912.6%

