

## [News story: Anaestamine 100mg/ml injection – Product defect recall alert](#)

We wish to make wholesalers and veterinary surgeons aware that Le Vet Pharma has issued a recall for all batches of Anaestamine 100mg/ml injection (Vm 41821/4011) as particles have been found in batches of the product and the origin of these particles is unknown.

Le Vet Pharma is contacting wholesale dealers and veterinary surgeons to examine inventory immediately and quarantine products subject to this recall.

For further information regarding the recall, please contact Quality Manager Aafke de Groot – Huizenga email: [aafke@levetpharma.com](mailto:aafke@levetpharma.com)

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## [News story: CMA launches funerals market investigation](#)

Following publication of its interim report in November 2018, the CMA consulted on whether to progress to a market investigation. Having carefully considered the consultation responses, the vast majority of which were supportive of the proposal, the CMA remains concerned about the effectiveness of competition in the funerals sector and will therefore carry out an in-depth market investigation. The investigation will focus on the supply of services by funeral directors and the supply of crematoria services.

The CMA's concerns include:

- The rise in cost of organising a funeral, the essential elements of which have increased by 6% each year – twice the inflation rate – for the last 14 years. Funerals typically cost several thousand pounds which is a significant outlay for households.
- The vulnerability of many people when organising a funeral, which may mean that they are not in a position to look at a range of choices. This appears to have made it easier for some funeral directors to charge high prices.
- Reluctance of firms to publish/disclose clear prices, including online, or to provide comprehensive information on quality and range, making it difficult for people to compare funeral directors.
- Low numbers of crematoria providers in local areas, and difficulty for new companies to enter the market due to the planning regime and high fixed costs.

- High prices in relation to crematoria services – the largest private operators have implemented average price rises of between 6% and 8% each year for the past 8 years and some local authorities have also implemented large increases in fees.

The purpose of a market investigation is to further examine the competition concerns identified and decide what action, if any, is appropriate. The CMA has power to make legally binding orders requiring changes to be made.

The investigation will be conducted by a Group drawn from the [CMA's panel of independent members](#), chaired by [Martin Coleman](#). The other members are [Richard Feasey](#), [Sheila McClelland](#) and [Karthik Subramanya](#).

Alongside the market study, in conjunction with Age UK and the Money Advice Service, the CMA has today produced advice for those who need to arrange a funeral, so that some additional support is available to people immediately.

A report of the CMA's market study, and further information relating to the market investigation are available on the [funerals market study](#) page.

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## **Press release: UK aid to support struggling hospitals “near breaking point” in Gaza**

Struggling hospitals across Gaza will receive critical support through a new package of UK aid announced today (28 March), which will provide urgently needed medicines and surgical supplies.

The funding, confirmed by the International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt, will help to keep Gaza's hospitals functioning as they face increasing demand from the number of trauma patients.

Hospitals in Gaza are under extreme pressure, after trauma patients requiring treatment increased month-on-month to more than 29,000 over the last year. Rising demands on hospitals have reduced general access to healthcare, with consistent shortages of medicines and supplies leading to increased rates of infection, and a growing risk of amputations and antibiotic resistance.

UK aid will support the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to deliver urgently needed surgical equipment, medicines, wound dressing kits, prosthetic limbs and post-surgery physiotherapy. It will also help to provide physical rehabilitation services for up to 3,000 disabled people.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

The UK is deeply concerned by the crisis in Gaza and the pressure it is putting on hospitals, which are now near breaking point. The UK aid funding announced today will help treat the growing number of emergency patients and provide urgently needed medicines, surgical supplies and rehabilitation.

Our support has consistently provided assistance to meet the basic needs of people in Gaza. UK aid has helped prevent the spread of disease, and given people access to healthcare, clean water and sanitation. It also recently provided a package of emergency food supplies for more than 62,000 Palestinian refugees at risk of going hungry.

We are also working to address some of the underlying causes of the humanitarian situation in Gaza through an economic development programme, which includes increasing the sustainable supplies of water and electricity. The UK supports a return to negotiations to find a lasting political settlement for Palestinians and Israelis.

## Notes to editors

- DFID will provide £2 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross's (ICRC) 2019 Israel and Occupied Territories (ILOT) Appeal. UK aid will contribute to the delivery of surgical equipment, drugs and disposables, wound dressing kits, rehabilitative prosthetics, and post-surgery physiotherapy through the Artificial Limb and Polio Centre.
- The work of the ICRC is based on the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their Additional Protocols, its Statutes – and those of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – and the resolutions of the International Conferences of the Red Cross and Red Crescent.
- The ICRC is an independent, neutral organisation ensuring humanitarian protection and assistance for victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence. It takes action in response to emergencies and at the same time promotes respect for international humanitarian law and its implementation in national law.

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**[Press release: Charities across the UK supporting vulnerable women benefit in latest round of funding from Tampon](#)**

# Tax Fund

The funding will support a diverse range of projects over the next two years including helping women at risk of homelessness or modern slavery to programmes that address problem gambling and violence against women. The money has been awarded to larger projects with around £7.5 million given to four projects making onward grants to small and medium sized organisations across the UK.

Minister for Civil Society Mims Davies said:

It is absolutely right we invest money from sanitary products in projects to give more women and girls the help and support they need to address difficult challenges they face in our society.

This important funding will help thousands more vulnerable women of all ages across our communities.

It will provide more of the opportunities they need to rebuild their lives.

Over 70 charities have received grants from the Tampon Tax Fund, with £47 million allocated since the Autumn Statement in 2015. This additional £15 million brings the total to £62 million.

The latest round of funding has been awarded to:

Through the creation of a Tampon Tax Community Fund, the UKCF will deliver a UK wide onward grants programme to projects that will make a difference to the health, wellbeing, confidence and social and economic activity of women and girls. The grants will be awarded via an open competition.

## **Homeless Link £2,000,000 (England wide)**

They will run an onward grants programme to provide direct support to women who are, or are at risk of, homelessness across England. Homeless women often have different needs and issues to men, and the project will produce and disseminate evidence-based learning and resources about the best ways to provide gender specific support to homeless women.

## **Spirit of 2012 £1,500,000 (UK wide)**

This project called 'The Carers Music Fund' is a UK wide onward grants project that aims to increase access to music making for women and girls with caring responsibilities.

## **Comic Relief £1,294,002 (UK wide)**

This project is an onward grants programme investing in projects working to

end violence against women and girls, particularly those who are more at risk due to multiple and complex needs.

**Gamcare £1,191,818 (UK wide)**

Through their Vulnerable Women and Problem Gambling Programme this project will develop better support for women and girls affected by problem gambling. Gamcare will work with a network of organisations to improve treatment options for women who are problem gamblers and women affected by domestic violence related to gambling.

**Crisis UK £1,140,000 (UK wide)**

This project will help homeless women who are survivors of modern slavery rebuild their lives and find new homes. It will develop a model to identify and support the recovery of women who have escaped modern slavery and are homeless or precariously housed and help them into accommodation.

**SACRO £1,092,194 (Scotland wide)**

This Scotland-wide project will provide support to women who work as prostitutes and use the internet to find clients. The project will reach out to women online, provide basic safety information and support, and signpost them to specialist one-to-one support services

**Southall Black Sisters £1,090,000 (London, North-East & Manchester)**

Southall Black Sisters will provide support for women with no recourse to public funds through their 'Recourse to Safety' project. It will make essential support and protection available to abused women by providing safe accommodation, subsistence and help including counselling, therapy, immigration advice and community awareness-raising.

**Changing Lives £1,000,000 (North East & Yorkshire)**

Changing Lives' 'STAGE' project will provide support for vulnerable women who have been groomed by groups of men for sexual exploitation in locations across the North East and Yorkshire.

**Youth Access £1,000,000 (England wide)**

This project is a consortium of 12 organisations that aims to improve the number of young women accessing mental health support across England through their services. This will include a range of psychological therapies, group and one to one support, with a focus on young women with multiple needs and BAME young women.

**Notes for Editors**

1. For more information call DCMS Press Office on 0207 211 2210.
2. More information about the Tampon Tax Fund can be found [here](#).

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## [News story: Red Falcon and Phoenix report published](#)

Our report into the collision between the passenger ferry Red Falcon and the motor cruiser Phoenix while heading for Cowes, Isle of Wight on 29 September 2018, is now published.

The report contains details of what happened and the subsequent actions taken: [read more](#).

### **Press enquiries**

Press enquiries during office hours 01932 440015

Press enquiries out of hours 020 7944 4292