

[News story: Nasal decongestant to be available to buy from pharmacies](#)

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has today agreed that Otrivine Extra Dual Relief Nasal Spray Solution will be available through pharmacies without prescription.

Otrivine Extra Dual Relief Nasal Spray contains Ipratropium bromide 0.6mg/ml and xylometazoline hydrochloride 0.5mg/ml.

Following a public consultation, MHRA has agreed to reclassify Otrivine Extra Dual Relief Nasal Spray Solution from a Prescription Only Medicine (POM) to a Pharmacy (P) medicine in the UK for the symptomatic treatment of nasal congestion and rhinorrhoea in connection with common colds.

MHRA is committed to improving access to medicines where it is safe to do so, providing greater choice and better access for the public.

[News story: Businesses get on board with the Prompt Payment Code](#)

32 of the biggest suppliers to the Government have voluntarily committed to pay 95% of invoices within 60 days – and to work towards adopting 30 days as the norm.

This fulfils a key manifesto pledge and will help the cash flow of small businesses. It is estimated that small and medium-sized enterprises in the UK are collectively owed more than £26bn in overdue payments.

The signatories to the code are major strategic suppliers who typically have contracts across government of more than £100m. Together they account for around 40% of government procurement spend.

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Cabinet Office, Caroline Nokes said:

This is a major boost to payment practices in the UK. Paying invoices on time is vital in providing healthy cash flow to smaller businesses, to help them survive and thrive.

Small Business Minister Margot James said:

We want the UK to be the best place in the world to start and grow a business, but the UK's small-to-medium-sized businesses are currently owed over £26bn in overdue payments. Such unfair payment practices hamper a business's ability to invest in growth, and have no place in an economy that works for everyone.

It is only right that the Government should lead by example, and it's great to see all 32 of our strategic suppliers signed up and committed to fair payment terms.

The Crown Commercial Service (CCS) encourages businesses to sign up to the Code, which is administered by the Chartered Institute for Credit Management (CICM) on behalf of BEIS.

The voluntary code of practice publicly signifies organisations' commitment to fair payment terms to suppliers, especially smaller businesses.

Philip King, Chief Executive of the Chartered Institute of Credit Managers, said:

It is important to see that all of the Government's strategic suppliers are now leading by example by signing up to the Prompt Payment Code. The PPC allows suppliers to raise a challenge if they feel they are not being treated fairly by a signatory, and such challenges are proving successful not only in delivering payment but also in further improving practices and processes. It's vital that businesses feel confident and have certainty that they will be paid on time, as well as having a route to challenge if they need to.

[Find out more about the Prompt Payment Code.](#)

[News story: Watch Live: Ukraine Reform Conference](#)

On 6 July 2017, the UK and Ukraine will jointly host a major international conference in London. It brings together Ukraine and its international partners to strengthen support for reform in the country.

You can watch live sessions from the conference including the delegation arrivals, ministerial plenary sessions and press conference.

Watch in English

[Ukraine Reform Conference LIVE \(English\)](#)

Watch in Ukrainian

[Ukraine Reform Conference LIVE \(Ukrainian\)](#)

[Press release: Businesses get on board with Prompt Payment Code](#)

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[News story: Home Secretary awards £17m to tackle violence against women and girls](#)

The 41 projects across England and Wales will carry out a range of activities including providing support to victims, working with perpetrators of abuse to change their behaviour and helping to support children affected by what they have witnessed.

Specialist help will be made available for the most vulnerable victims, including providing support for those with complex needs, including those with substance misuse problems or poor mental health.

The funding for successful bids was announced in a speech by the Home Secretary to the Women's Aid conference to members in Coventry.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd said:

Tackling violence against women and girls is everyone's business. It needs a joined-up, collaborative response locally, providing support to victims through health, education and social care, as well as the police.

These projects will help ensure that victims and survivors get the right support at the right time, as well as intervening early to prevent these crimes from happening in the first place.

Violence Against Women and Girls devastates the lives of victims and families and this Government will continue to do all it can to protect people from these horrendous crimes.

The funding has been awarded through the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service Transformation Fund, which is designed to support earlier intervention and prevention so that fewer women reach crisis point.

It includes £600,000 for the ASSIST project in Birmingham, where health commissioners, local authorities and providers such as Black Country Women's Aid will work together to offer specialist support to victims of domestic abuse who have complex additional problems including drug, alcohol and mental health issues which mainstream services are often unable to address. There will be a particular focus on women at risk of having their children taken into care.

In South Wales, £1.4 million will go to a wide-ranging programme of support using the 'Change that Lasts' framework. This includes rolling out the 'Ask Me' scheme through which up to 30 'community ambassadors' will be trained to identify the signs of abuse and to provide safe spaces within communities where women can report it.

Seventeen of the successful projects include working with perpetrators, including programmes with teenage boys to intervene early if they are exhibiting aggressive or worrying behaviour before it escalates into abuse. Today's announcement represents a further demonstration of the government's commitment to tackling violence against women and girls and follows confirmation in the recent [Queen's Speech](#) of the forthcoming Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill.

It will include a consolidated new domestic abuse prevention and protection order, and enshrine a definition of domestic abuse in law. It will establish a Domestic Violence and Abuse Commissioner to stand up for victims and survivors.

The legislation will allow the government to ratify the Istanbul Convention, which will enable UK courts to prosecute British citizens for domestic abuse regardless of where in the world the offence was committed.

The bill will also ensure that if abusive behaviour involves a child, then the court can hand down a sentence which reflects the devastating and life-long impact that abuse can have.

In the last Parliament, the government published its strategy to end violence against women and girls, making clear that everyone needs to play their part – friends, family, employers, health providers and the police. It also introduced a specific offence of controlling or coercive behaviour.

The [VAWG Strategy](#), published in March 2016, committed to launching a VAWG Service Transformation Fund as part of the £80 million pledged to support the government's commitment to tackling VAWG and ensuring victims and survivors get the support they need. Following an additional £20 million announced in the Spring Budget, we have now pledged £100 million in funding over the Spending Review period.

View the full list of the [successful projects](#).

Read the Home Secretary's [speech](#).