



News › Health

## Viagra to be sold over the counter in the UK

MARTIN COULTER |

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**Viagra will soon be available to buy over the counter in the UK, the medicines regulator has announced.**

The move, announced by the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), will make the Britain the first country where the drug is available without prescription.

Viagra Connect - a brand of viagra manufactured by pharmaceutical giant **Pfizer** - will soon be available to people over the age of 18 at the discretion of individual pharmacists.



The manufacturer says they hope to have UK pharmacies fully stocked by spring 2018.

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Mick Foy, from the MHRA, said: "This decision is good news for men's health.

"Erectile dysfunction can be a debilitating condition, so it's important men feel they have fast access to quality and legitimate care, and do not feel they need to turn to counterfeit online supplies which could have potentially serious side-effects."

Dr Berkeley Philips, medical director of Pfizer, said: "We understand some men may avoid seeking support and treatment for this condition.

”Giving them the option to talk to a pharmacist and buy Viagra Connect could be a real step forward in encouraging more men into the healthcare system.”

Reports show erectile dysfunction drugs now account for 90 per cent of all seized counterfeit drugs.

GPs will offer prescriptions for other forms of viagra. ■

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