

## Pharmacies going paperless

MORE pharmacists have signed up for the Pharmacy Guild's new invoice payment service, which replaces the old paper-based system, since visiting the ePIPS stand at APP2008 last weekend.

ePIPS, a secure digital 'clearing house', requires only a single transaction when organising individual payments for multiple suppliers.

"The beauty of ePIPS is that it is completely paperless and can be accessed 24/7 from any computer with an internet connection," said Qld Pharmacy Guild (Qld) Innovation and Development Mgr, Shaun Singleton.

The system is free to Guild members.

## WIN AN AUSTRALIS BRUSH ON FOUNDATION



TODAY is the last day of our *Pharmacy Daily* Australis competition, giving subscribers the chance to win an Australis Perfection Brush on Foundation.

The secret lies in the unique tool, which effortlessly distributes just the right amount of make up for a flawless complexion.

Congratulations to **Amy Lange** from Symbion Health, who was the first to tell us that her favourite Australis product is the lip gloss - yum!

To enter today, simply be the first to email your answer to the question below to -

info@pharmacydaily.com.au

**Question: Name one of the features/benefits of the new Australis Perfection Brush On Foundation.**

## Compounding warning

THE Health Department has signalled a crackdown on compounding chemists, with Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing Jan McLucas warning that she's concerned about some products being produced in commercial quantities.

In her address at APP2008 last week (*PD Mon*) McLucas said the compounding sector was set for a shakeup, with a proposal to be shortly released by the National Coordinating Committee on Therapeutic Goods.

She said the current exemption for the preparation of extemporaneous formulations appeared to be open to abuse, with some pharmacies apparently "preparing prescriptions for many patients at the same time.

"These include preparations of so-called bio-identical hormone compounds and various injectable vitamin B compounds used for fat removal," she said.

"It is of concern to me that these injections are being

## HRT blunder!

THANKS to the hundreds of sharp-eyed readers who pointed out the fairly obvious error in our story yesterday about Hormone Replacement Therapy.

The new guidelines from the International Menopause Society say HRT is safe and effective for symptomatic, otherwise healthy, peri- and post menopausal women under sixty years - not 16!

Solvay Pharmaceuticals senior regulatory and QA manager Tony Wilson-Williams helpfully pointed out that the under-16 year market for menopausal women is "rather small".

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

HEALTH officials in Thailand have banned hospitals and clinics from cosmetic castration.

Thailand is home to many so-called "ladyboys" - ranging from transvestites through to men who have undergone a complete sex change.

The Public Health Ministry said that performing the operation without detailed physical and mental evaluation of the patient risked a six month prison term.

However health official Tara Chinakarn admitted that the ban could be difficult to enforce because it was such a quick and simple operation.

"It's hard to track them down as it takes only 15-20 minutes to have the surgery," Tara said.

Thailand is a world leader in gender reassignment, but at the lower end of the market offers castration from about \$150.

A CREATIVE *Daily Telegraph* reporter has uncovered a fascinating fact - NSW public hospital spend about the same amount feeding their patients as dog kennels pay to feed their canine boarders.

An enquiry into the NSW health system heard testimony on Wed that many patients were "starving" due to budgetary pressure on hospital food costs, with the average spend as little as \$3 per day per patient.

The *Telegraph* contacted Calabash Kennels and Cattery where the proprietor confirmed it spends between \$2.50 and \$3 on "high quality" pet food for each resident daily.

'compounded' in commercial quantities and supplied to beauty salons and body sculpting clinics without evidence of safety, efficacy or quality," she said.

McLucas said the reform plan would see a continuation of the exemption for traditional extemporaneous dispensing for individual and identified patients.

Moderate levels of compounding would be self-regulated by professional pharmacy bodies, while larger commercial amounts "will be regulated by the TGA".

The plan would also restrict the advertising of compounded products and the types of dosage forms, formulations and ingredients that pharmacists can extemporaneously compound.

## Tai Chi diabetes link

TAI CHI can help people with type 2 diabetes control their condition, according to research published in the UK this week.

Two separate studies in Taiwan and Australia found a 12 week program of exercise (3 one-hour sessions a week) boosted immunity and cut blood sugar levels.

## Pills for pets

MULTIVITAMINS and arthritis formulas are now available for cats and dogs.

Animal specialist Rufus & Coco will release its new range into select pharmacies next week.

Products include Joint Aid; Inner Balance; Vitality Plus; and Super Skin and Coat.

"Rufus and Coco's range of nutraceuticals use scientifically proven ingredients that work to optimise your pet's health," said Dr Paul McGreevy, Scientific Advisory Panel Member: RSPCA.

## Get your copy of *Community Pharmacy* today!

*Community Pharmacy: Strategic Change Management* has hit the book shelves!

The book, which covers the essential trends and issues in successful pharmacy management for today and the future has been written by S.I. (Charlie) Benrimoj, Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sydney; Alison Roberts, a research fellow in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney; Dexter Dunphy, Distinguished Professor and Ian Palmer, Associate Dean (Research) and Professor of Management at the Faculty of Business, University of Technology, Sydney.

The book will help community pharmacists and pharmacy owners adapt to an increasingly competitive retail environment by providing industry-specific tools for change.

Key features include authentic pharmacy case studies, development by world leading authorities utilising the latest research and balanced coverage with theoretical insights and practical focus.

The book is highly suitable for pharmacy students, providing the knowledge and skills for best practice in community pharmacy - [click here to view a list of bookstores stocking the publication.](#)

