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Guild ePIPS relaunch

THE Queensland branch of the Pharmacy Guild has relaunched its ePIPS electronic invoice payment system, with a range of enhancements including improved search functionality to add new suppliers to bill payments, as well as cosmetic changes to reflect its refreshed brand.

The program was created by the same team who produced eGuild, Project STOP and eQCPP and allows Guild members to pay their bills in seconds with a single bank transfer, rather than spending time making individual payments.

ePIPS allows staff to enter invoices into the system during quiet periods in the pharmacy, with the owner able to later log in and pay a bulk sum, with the Guild then distributing the individual payments to suppliers.

Other changes in the revamped system include newly automated processes behind the scenes which increase its speed as well as improve reliability and security.

It's free of charge to members of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia; to sign up or for more information call 07 3831 3788.

Vic board cautions owner

THE owner of five pharmacies in Victoria has been reprimanded for a failure to be aware of activities in one of the shops, which were run by a separate management company.

In a hearing last month, the Vic Pharmacy Board found the owner had engaged in professional misconduct, after complaints incl that keys to the pharmacy had been given to a non-pharmacist, that no regular pharmacist in charge was appointed, there were inadequate arrangements in place to ensure safe dispensing, and that the proprietor "failed to be aware of the manner in which the pharmacy was operated."

GSK/Stiefel deal

GLAXOSMITHKLINE has signed an agreement to buy dermatology specialist Stiefel Laboratories.

GSK will pay up to US\$3.6 billion for the privately owned company, saying the deal "will create a new world-leading, specialist dermatology business and re-energise our existing dermatology products,"

Stiefel specialises in psoriasis and acne treatments, meaning GSK will broaden its OTC product range.

New Reyataz indication

BRISTOL-Myers Squibb Australia has announced the approval of the use of 300mg Reyataz once daily boosted with ritonavir 100mg as part of combination therapy in previously untreated HIV-1 infected adult patients.

Reyataz is a protease inhibitor and has been reimbursed through the PBS since Dec 2004.

The number of new HIV diagnoses in Australia has been steadily increasing, from 718 cases in 1999 to 1051 cases in 2007.

The Board said the proprietor rarely attended the pharmacy, with the only contact between the owner and staff via the management firm.

"Workload was excessive on some occasions resulting in several dispensing errors," the Board said.

Changes implemented included a determination that the proprietor should visit the pharmacy at least weekly and ensure that keys to the pharmacy were only in the possession of pharmacists.

"Owners of pharmacies are in a privileged position in the community and must ensure that employees have the tools and equipment...to adequately carry out their responsibilities.

"This really can only be achieved by attending the pharmacy regularly," the Board said.

"Ultimately it is the owner of the pharmacy who is responsible for the operation of their pharmacy."

Another superclinic

THE Health Department has signed a contract with Superclinic Nominees Pty Ltd for \$2.5m for the establishment of a GP Super Clinic in Strathpine, north of Brisbane.

As well as GPs, practice nurses, physiotherapists, podiatrists, dietitians and audiologists the clinic will be co-located with a "modern pharmacy", the government said.

Strathpine is the 12th GP Super Clinic contract to be finalised.

S2/S3 student training

THE Quality Care Pharmacy Program (QCPP) is now aware that the item in *Pharmacy Daily* on March 27 entitled 'QCPP Guidelines for Students' which stated that the "University of Sydney didn't respond to approaches from the Guild when the list was being compiled" is incorrect.

The University has responded and the status of the Sydney University courses regarding the QCPP requirement to undertake S2 and S3 training has now been updated on the QCPP website.

University of Sydney Bachelor of Pharmacy students meet the QCPP requirements for delivery of S2 and S3 medicines after completion of third year and University of Sydney Master of Pharmacy students satisfy the QCPP requirements for delivery of S2 and S3 medicines on completion of the Masters course.

Dengue vaccine move

SANOFI-aventis has announced new clinical studies of its investigational tetravalent dengue vaccine in Singapore and Vietnam.

The immunisation is already being trialled in Thailand and the Philippines, with the ongoing studies aimed at commercialising a vaccine for the prevention of dengue, which has emerged as a serious public health problem in the Asia-Pacific in recent decades.

Dengue fever is transmitted by mosquitoes, and is the most widespread tropical disease after malaria.

Australia is also affected by the disease, with Queensland Health currently tracking an outbreak which started in Cairns last Dec with 848 confirmed cases so far, as well as cases in Townsville, Port Douglas, Yarrabah, Injinoo, Innisfail and Mareeba.

Symptoms range from fever, muscle and joint pain and headache through to haemorrhagic fever.



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Health, Beauty and New Products

Welcome to our weekly feature with all the latest health, beauty and new products for pharmacy!

Suppliers wanting to promote products in this feature should email advertising@pharmacydaily.com.au.

Keep your toothbrush clean too!

Oral-B has launched a new line of toothbrushes with Anti-Bacterial Bristle Protection. They incorporate a silver additive in the bristles which help inhibit bacterial growth on their surface, meaning toothbrushes will remain cleaner between brushings for up to three months. The antibacterial protection is available in both manual and battery versions of Oral-B toothbrushes.

RRP: From \$7.95

Stockist: Procter & Gamble

Web: www.oralb.com



DISPENSARY CORNER

HERE'S something you're unlikely to see presenting at your pharmacy very often.

A 66-year-old Sydney woman was hospitalised last year after a leech attached itself to her eyeball.

Apparently she was gardening in her backyard when some moist soil - and the leech - accidentally flicked into her left eye.

"Her husband then watched in alarm as the leech wriggled its way over her cornea to head for safety and a feed via the eye's mass of delicate blood vessels," according to a report in the *Emergency Medicine Australasia* journal.

Doctors weren't able to remove the leech using tweezers as simply pulling the leech off could have left its head lodged in the eyeball.

"It was tucked up underneath her upper eyelid," said emergency physician Toby Fogg.

"Our little fellow started off at about half a centimetre and by the time we removed it it was about 2cm long - it had quite a good lunch," he said.

Eventually the beastie was removed with the help of anaesthetic and salty water.

HERE'S an innovative form of drug delivery.

In fact "breathe-driving" could become a problem for patrons of a new bar in the UK which is offering the ability to experience a "breatheable cocktail."

Visitors to the Alcoholic Architecture bar on London's Ganton Street are being charged £5 to enter a room filled with a cloud of vapourised gin and tonic.

Reports say that stays in the room are limited to 60 minutes at a time, which a so-called "team of expert doctors" has estimated is the equivalent of between one and two standard drinks.

The room is decorated with giant slices of lime and straws to complete the experience, while visitors are provided with protective suits to stop their clothes from reeking of the classic drink.

A spokesman for the venue says guests are being advised to "breathe responsibly."

Soothing Nappy Rash Treatment Cream

Applied to affected areas three times daily, Covitol Nappy Rash Treatment Cream creates a thick and long-lasting protective barrier against nappy rash. With an ingredients list including cod liver oil, zinc oxide, paraffin and lanolin, the low allergy, fragrance-free creme is a multi talented product which may be helpful in the treatment of eczema sunburn, cuts, scrapes and other skin infections.

RRP: \$6.95 / \$10.95

Stockist: Aspen Pharmacare

Phone: 02 8436 8300



Undo winter effects with Arnica Oil

Dr.Hauschka's Birch Arnica Body Oil is created from skin-fortifying birch leaves, arnica, burdock and nettle which all help to maintain skin moisture levels, whilst also activating skin metabolism, and encouraging blood circulation. Used after exercise the formula helps to prevent joint and muscle pain.

RRP: \$40

Stockist: Helios Health & Beauty Pty Ltd

Phone: 02 8765 1100



Light up your nails

Manicare has launched a limited edition glass nail file - complete with an inbuilt LED light to allow for maximum visibility during a pampering manicure, day or night! The tiny glass particles beautifully smooth, shape and add a superior finish to your nails.

RRP: \$9.95

Stockist: McPhersons Consumer Products

Tel: 1800 651 146



Clear up red eyes

Murine Clear Eyes helps to relieve the effects of red eyes caused by smoke, fatigue and air pollutants. The vasoconstrictor and decongestant action effectively reduces blood vessels and as such brightens eyes for up to eight hours.

RRP: \$9.95

Stockist: Aspen Pharmacare

Phone: 02 8436 8300

