Exciting Updates to Paradigm's Pharmacy Technician Series

Paradigm is one of the few publishers to go to the Pharmacy Technician Educator Council (PTEC) to hear from instructors themselves about what they want, need, and care about.

Our series has:

- **A complete redesign to be luminescent and visually engaging** with many images, margin features, diagrams, weblinks, and easily understood text and captions.
- **A brand new, user friendly web-based Course NAVIGATOR** learning management system to meet student study needs with review exercises, student games and assessments; and to meet instructor needs with course curriculum, hand-outs, PowerPoints, computer graded review tests and exams, in-class Kahoots smartphone review games, and other features – all designed with the help of instructors!
- **Content updates to fit ASHP standards, pharmacy developments,** and all of the needs of today's instructors – see the attached table for easy reference!

Paradigm's Successful Formula for Addressing Instructor Needs

1. **Top-Notch Instructors and Experts:** We put a premium on listening to instructor requests, engaging them as consultants, and having expert authors, many who are both Pharm Ds and practicing technicians. Our authors and reviewers are well-respected leaders in their fields, including many PTEC officers, Lisa McCartney (expert in compounding), Sue Biedermann, and so many others. ASHP standards and our advisory boards, which include instructors and industry leaders (Andrea Lannucci, Pat Gavin, Shawn McPartland, for example), shape content.

2. **Cutting-Edge, Relevant Content:** Our books cover all the new standards and "hot topics" in the pharmacy, HIT, and allied health fields, gleaned from research, news, conferences, surveys, and professional blogs. For instance, our revised pharmacy technician line addresses ASHP guidelines; USP Chapters <800>, <797>, and <795>; medication reconciliation; externships; biosimilars; and other topics. Our HIT and allied health lines handle similar coverage.

3. **New Technology and Experienced Editors:** Not only are our editors experienced in developing these resources, but our in-house design and production teams excel. We also rely on outside experts for digital development, instructional design (i.e., NRx live practice replication software, smartphone apps, 3-D body imagery (BioDigital, A.D.A.M.), audio learning (Med Term), study game experiences (AnsrSource), and other technological learning tools.

Pressures on Instructors and Technicians that the series addresses:

- As of 1/15/15, all pharmacy technician programs desiring accreditation from the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) *must follow ASHP curriculum standards* and provide 600 hours of instruction over 15 weeks or longer, consisting of at least 160 hours *didactic instruction*, 80 hours *simulated hands-on training*, and 160 hours of *experiential training*, with the remaining 200 hours allocated as the program sees fit. Since many states are requiring accredited technicians and thus accredited programs, the chapters are aligned with ASH standards with an alignment table for instructors to use for easy correlation for filling out the accreditation crosswalk documentation. The *Course Navigator* also provides tips on the accreditation process from an instructor who has gone through it.

- ASHP is promoting its *Pharmacy Practice Model Initiative (PPMI)*, which promotes accredited technicians so pharmacists can move into more *Medication Therapy Management (MTM)* services, such as medication counseling and reconciliation, vaccine administration, glucose and blood pressure checks. To do this, technicians must be relied on to do more of the dispensing duties, even with some technicians becoming supervisors for tech-check-tech positions.

- More advanced practice specialties are emerging, and instructors need to help students see the *career path stepping stones* to greater responsibilities, promotions, salary, advanced specialties in pharmacy and in allied health positions.

- Technicians are now handling most of *insurance processing* with the pharmacy software and need more knowledge and experience on this topic.

- New *generic drugs* and *biotechnological drugs* and their *biosimilars* and *interchangeables* are entering the market and technicians need to know the differences between them and memorize their *indications* and *contraindications*.

- The United States Pharmacopeia (USP), the standards-setter in pharmacy compounding, has been revising and developing new standards for *nonsterile compounding (USP Chapter <795>)* and *sterile compounding (Chapter <797>)* as well as material on *hazardous compounding (a new Chapter <800>)*.

- Students are coming to programs *with fewer communication and professional soft skills,* so instructors need to emphasize these skills as well as retail sales and cashier skills.

- Pharmacy information software and networking have been changing with greater automations, data management *systems "interoperability,"* and emerging roles in *pharmacy informatics*.

- Instructors need to know that *pharmacy experts* and *other instructors have been involved in the creation of the book and resources* to trust that they are both accurate and presented in a teachable manner, with useful student and instructor resources and gradable exercises posted on the *easy to use and access Course Navigator Learning Management System*.

Instructor Need	Series Update
Does the book or series cover all the appropriate ASHP curriculum standards and objectives?	Yes. *Pharmacy Practice for Technicians, 6e,* has been designed to address all the ASHP objectives and each of the other titles in the series covers all of those pertinent to its specific content area.

How do the titles support the experiential requirements of the ASHP standards?	*Pharmacy Practice* presents an overview of all aspects of practice and it is designed to work with *Pharmacy Labs for Technicians, 3e,* which has practice replication software. In addition, each title in the series includes review questions, research projects, and suggested exercises on the Course NAVIGATOR that offer more engaged, interactive review, judgement, games, and experiential preparation. *Pharmacy Calculations for Technicians, 6e,* provides many practice problems to prepare students, as do *Sterile Compounding and Aseptic Technique* and *Certification Exam Review for Pharmacy Technicians, 4e*. *Pharmacology Essentials for Technicians* presents thorough knowledge of all the common drugs, their indications, contraindications, and generic substitutions for practice with study and application resources.
How do the titles prepare students for their roles as part of healthcare teams, PPMI, and medication therapy services?	*Pharmacy Practice* explains all of these new developments and the new expectations put on technicians in light of these developments. *Pharmacy Labs* includes simulated replications of the technician tasks that help support the pharmacists in these tasks. The rest of the books integrate these concepts as part of their contemporary approach.
How does your series prepare students for the realities of the job marketplace?	All of the books in Paradigm's health career series put an emphasis not only on ASHP standards but on soft skills, communication, professionalism, and practice tips. *Pharmacy Practice* goes in depth on these topics plus ethics, career paths and exploration, advanced practice specialties, automation, informatics, stress on the job, salaries, and advancement opportunities. It even addresses practical skills like how to handle a cash register and count out change.
How does your series prepare students for the realities of insurance processing?	Responding to instructors' requests, *Pharmacy Practice* provides an entire chapter on insurance processing, and *Pharmacy Labs* follows through with online adjudication software processing experiences with its pharmacy replication software. The other titles in the series also include information on

	insurance processing in terms of how it applies to pharmacology, calculations, compounding, and preparing for a certification exam.
How does your series prepare students for the many different things they need to know about the most common prescription drugs, generics, biotech drugs, biosimilar and interchangeable drug products?	Besides updating the popular *Pharmacology for Technicians* and the *Pocket Drug Guide,* Paradigm has developed a popular smartphone application for studying the most common prescription drugs. This app can be bundled with any one of our series books. Drug study games and flash cards have been developed for the Course NAVIGATOR. *Pharmacy Practice* now provides an entire chapter on pharmacology, and *Pharmacy Labs* follows through with the drug utilization review and medication reconciliation experiences in the pharmacy replication software.
Does your series prepare students for the changes in USP Chapters<795> and <797> and the new <800>?	Absolutely. In fact, the premiere certification instructor in the nation in these areas is Lisa McCartney, who is the co-author of *Pharmacy Labs for Technicians* and author of *Sterile Compounding and Aseptic Technique* and consultant on the series in these areas.
How does your series grab and hold the attention of my easily bored students and help them learn and study?	The whole series has been visually updated to appeal to all students and hold their attention with: ● clear, colorful diagrams, ● consistent margin tips and features, ● "In the Real World" boxes that call out contemporary incidents and examples ● Kahoots in-class review games, ● flash cards, ● Higher level thinking exercises and projects, and ● personal study games.