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## Experiences with using Gloop® medication lubricant: What do Australian aged care facility healthcare workers think?

Marwa O. Malouh<sup>1</sup>, Aida Sefidani Forough<sup>2</sup>, Julie A.Y. Cichero<sup>1,2</sup>, Esther T.L. Lau<sup>2</sup>, Lisa M. Nissen<sup>2</sup>, Kathryn J. Steadman<sup>1,2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> School of Pharmacy, The University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia. <sup>2</sup> School of Clinical Sciences, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, QLD, Australia.

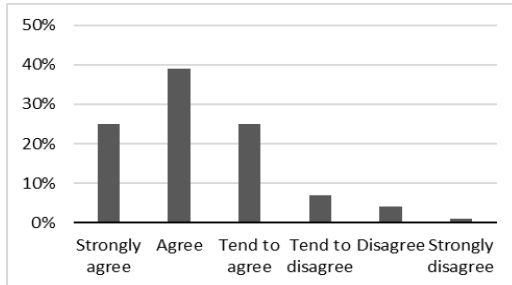


Fig. 1. Responses to the statement: "Gloop is an effective method to facilitate pill-swallowing in residents" (n=170)

**Introduction.** Gloop is the only registered medical device available in Australia that is designed as medication lubricant to help people who find it difficult to swallow their pills whole, including those with dysphagia (swallowing difficulties).

**Aim.** This survey study evaluated the extent of use and usefulness of Gloop in medication administration practices in aged care facilities (ACFs) based on the experiences of healthcare workers.

**Method.** Healthcare workers of varying professional levels in ACFs across Australia who are involved in medication administration were invited to participate in a structured online survey.

**Results.** A total of 355 healthcare workers completed the survey. Overall, 48% (170/355) of the respondents had used Gloop. Of those who had never used Gloop before, almost one-third of these (58/185) had heard about the product. The majority of respondents that have used Gloop believed it to be an effective method to facilitate pill-swallowing (Fig. 1). Easier medication administration (48%), reduction in the need to crush pills (34%), and better medication compliance (33%) were reported as the main benefits of using Gloop.

**Discussion.** Using Gloop may facilitate the process of medication administration for healthcare workers and improve residents' compliance with medications. Potential risks associated with modifying medications such as drug toxicities or increased adverse effects, may also be avoided with Gloop when the need for crushing medications is resolved. Further studies are needed to confirm the clinical effectiveness of Gloop.