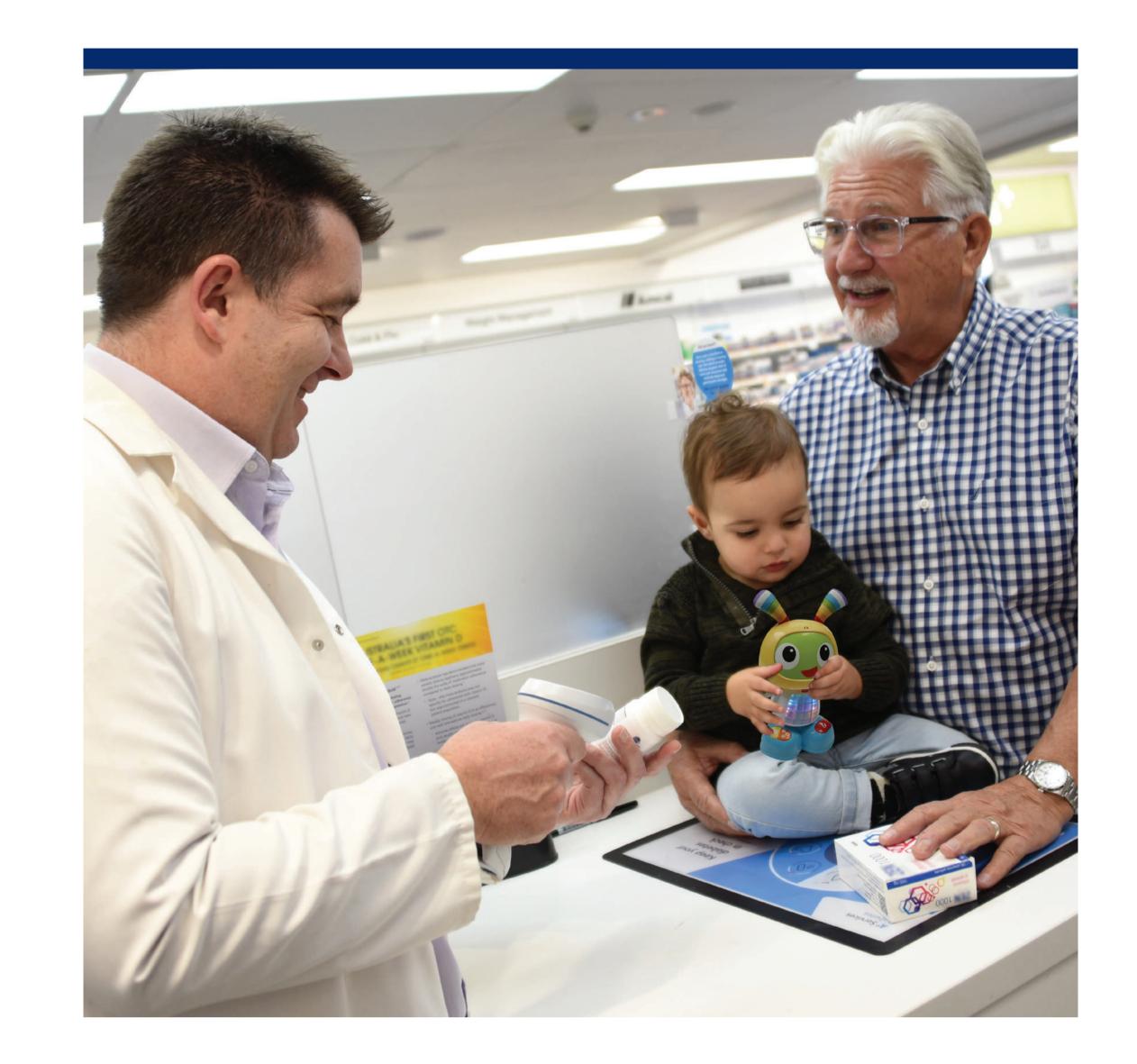


The Global Language of Business

Using GS1 standards to reduce medication errors

Minor differences in medications can increase the risk of human error for hospital pharmacists when prescribing and dispensing.



Introducing GS1 standards and technology to digitise processes can work to improve accuracies and patient safety, ensuring:





The results

Using GS1 standards – GLNs, GTINs and GSRNs – barcode scanning was used to monitor and verify each of these

points in real-time, alerting the pharmacists to any potential medication errors.



prevented error rates in dispensing fell from 0.78% to 0.19% (P<0.001)



dispensing time

reduced by on

average, five

seconds per item

(P=0.015)



97% staff (n=31) agreed scanning reduced the likelihood of medication errors

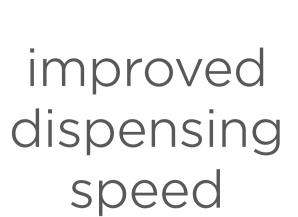
Achieved outcomes

Outcomes clearly demonstrated that the adoption of barcode scanning technologies using GS1 standards had significantly positive results. Benefits included:





reduced prescribing errors



improved patient safety



simplified processes for prescribers

decreased time, releasing staff capacity cost reductions

"It's hard to imagine how we worked without scanning in the first place – it should be routine practice"

Iain Davidson Chief pharmacist, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust

