

## **Project Title**

Enhancing Patient Safety by Optimizing Accuracy Of Thickened Fluids Preparation

## **Project Lead and Members**

- Ms. Jorain Lim Yu Ni
- Mr. Jason Lim Ghim Leong
- Ms. Minakshi Pandey
- Dr. Timothy James Hart

## **Organisation(s) Involved**

Ang Mo Kio – Thye Hua Kwan Hospital

## **Healthcare Family Group(s) Involved in this Project**

Allied Health, Nursing

## **Applicable Specialty or Discipline**

Speech Therapy

## **Aim(s)**

To ensure all thickened fluids given to patients with dysphagia are prepared accurately to the correct fluid consistency.

## **Background**

See poster appended/ below

## **Methods**

See poster appended/ below

## **Results**

See poster appended/ below

### **Conclusion**

See poster appended/ below

### **Project Category**

Care & Process Redesign

Risk Management, Adverse Outcome Reduction, Quality Improvement, Safe Care

### **Keywords**

Thickened Fluid, Fluid Consistency , Dysphagia

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# Enhancing patient safety by optimizing accuracy of thickened fluids preparation



太和觀 THK

ANG MO KIO

THYE HUA KWAN HOSPITAL

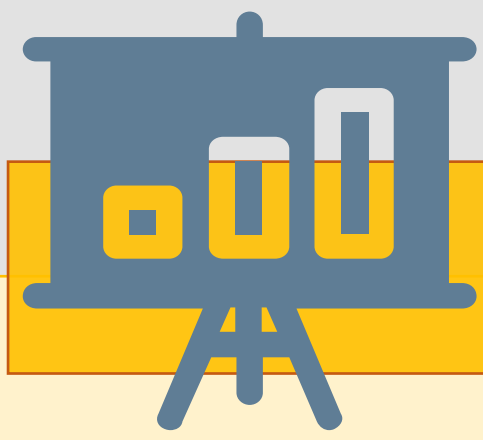
太和觀醫院

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Member: Jason Lim, Senior Speech Therapist, AMK-THKH

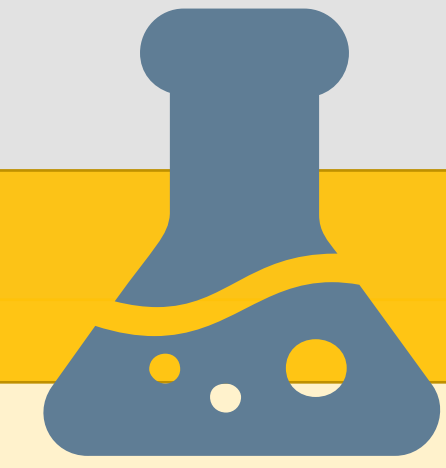
Advisor and Sponsor: Minakshi Pandey, Director, Allied Health, AMK-THKH

Advisor: Dr. Timothy Hart, Nanyang Technological University, Primary Care Research Network

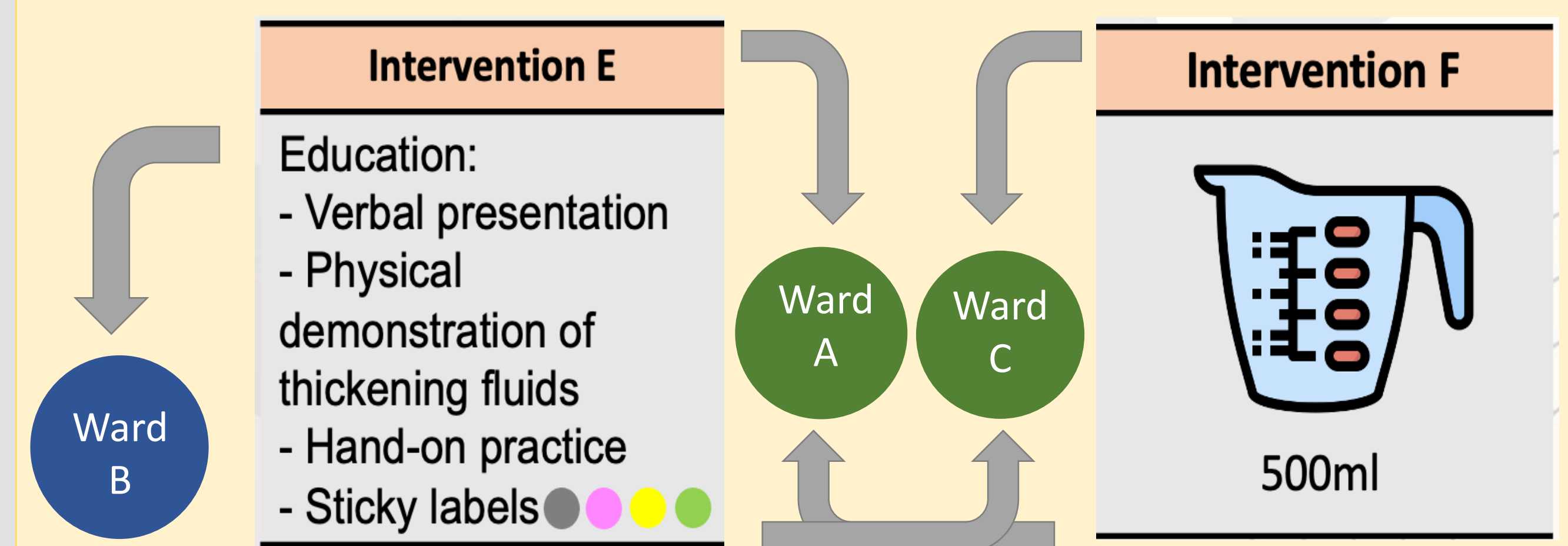


## Introduction

Daily preparation of thickened fluids in the hospital are primarily done by nursing staff who change from shift to shift. They also have different preparatory methods and techniques. In addition, without access to proper measuring tools, it is challenging for the nursing staff to accurately prepare thickened fluids to the correct fluid consistency. Therefore, patients might not be provided with the correct fluid consistency recommended by their Speech Therapist. This may increase their risk of aspiration, and potentially leading to further medical complications such as aspiration pneumonia.



## Intervention



## Study Objective

### Aim:

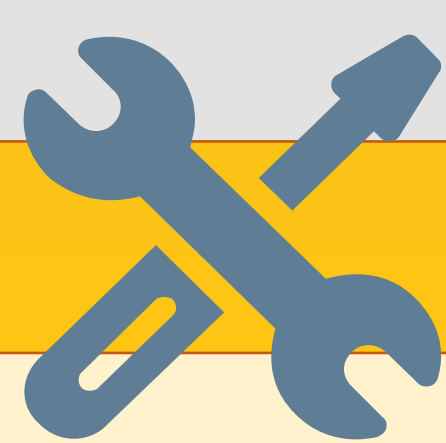
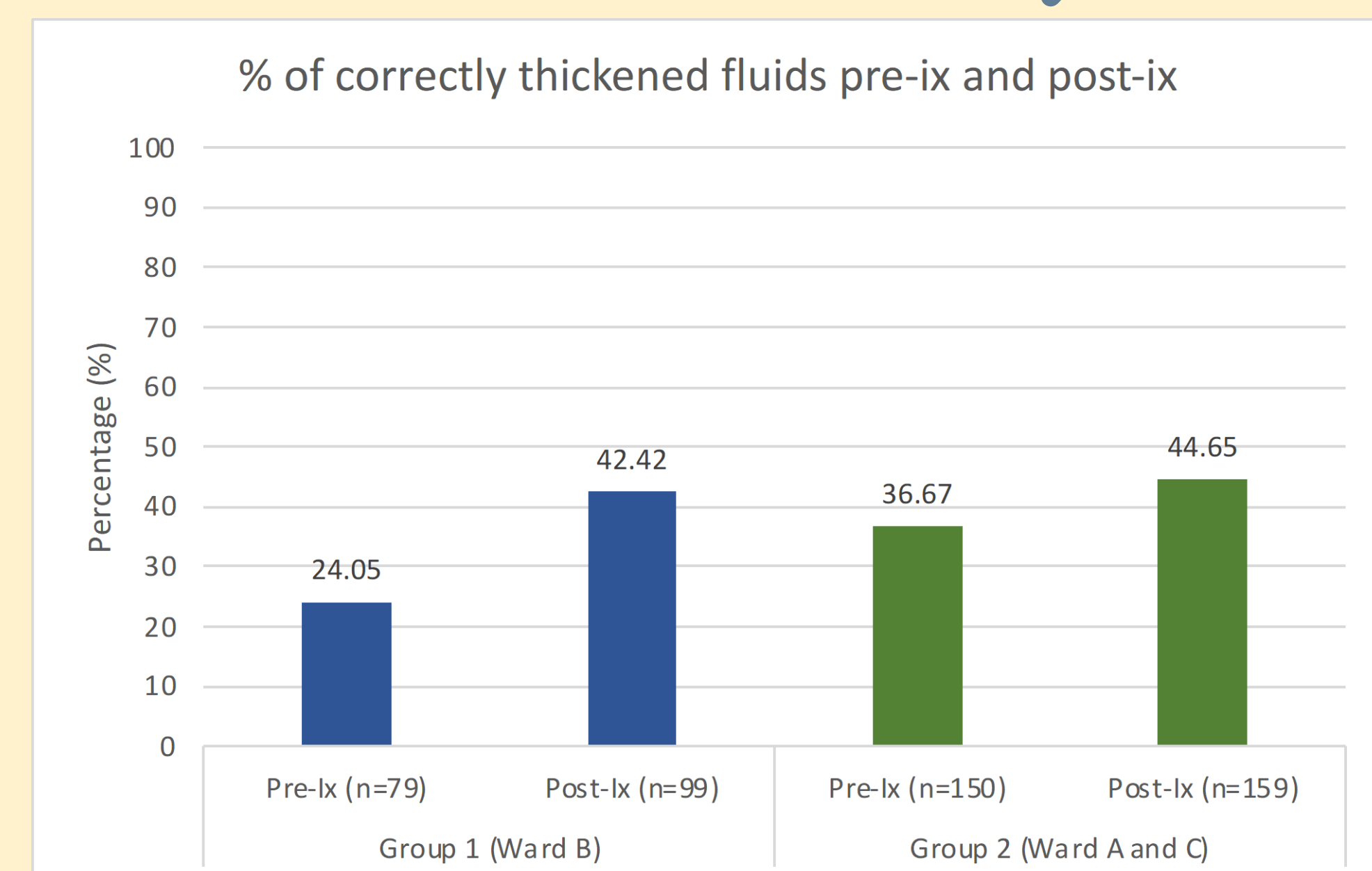
- To ensure all thickened fluids given to patients with dysphagia are prepared accurately to the correct fluid consistency.

### Problem:

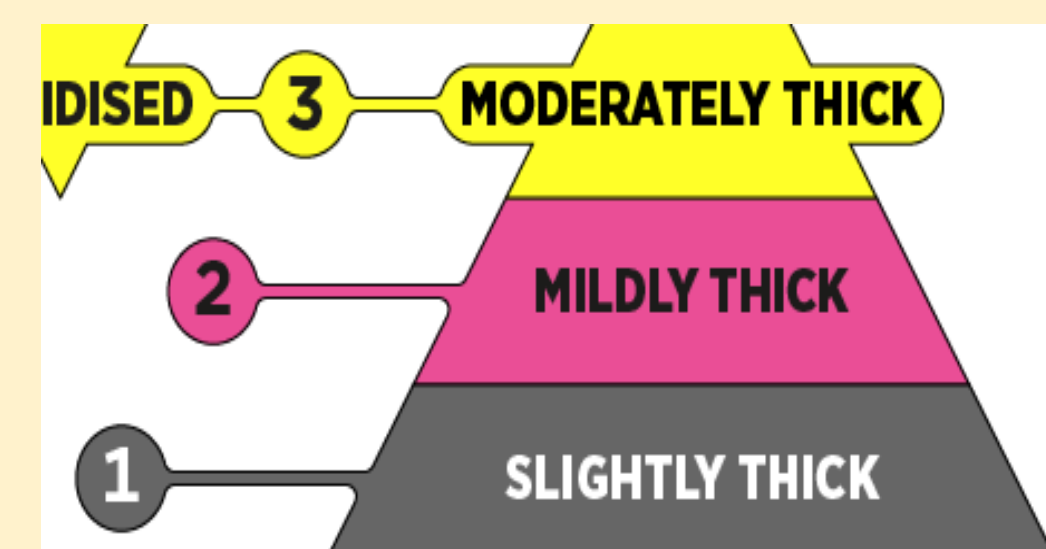
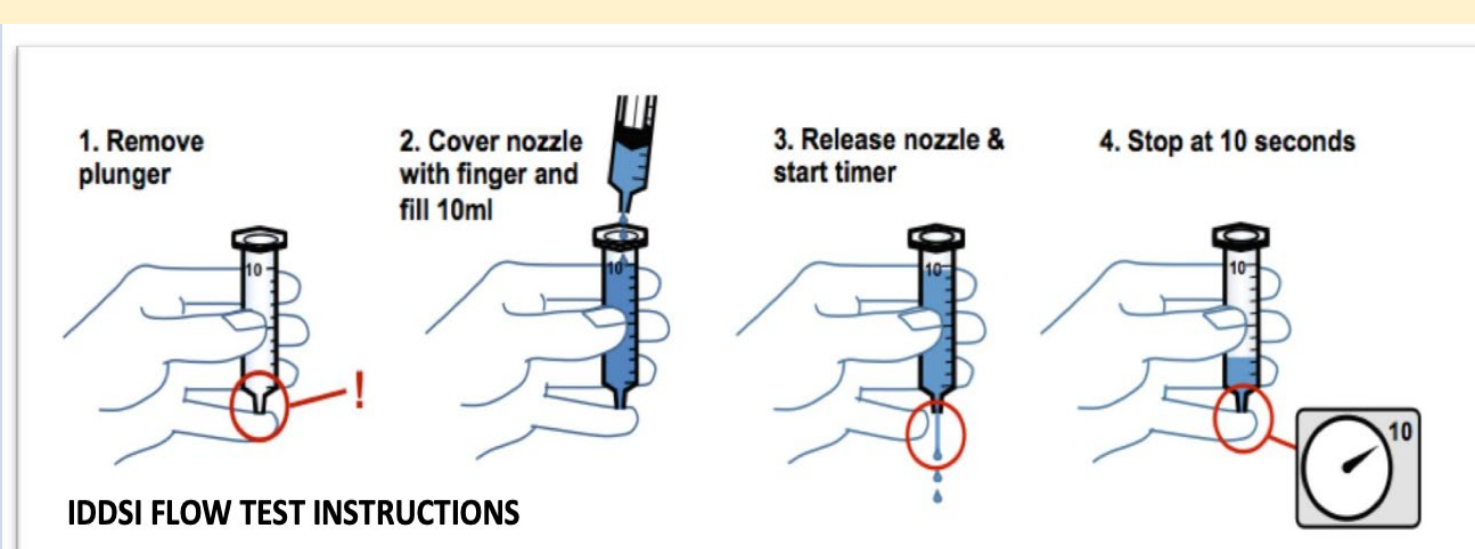
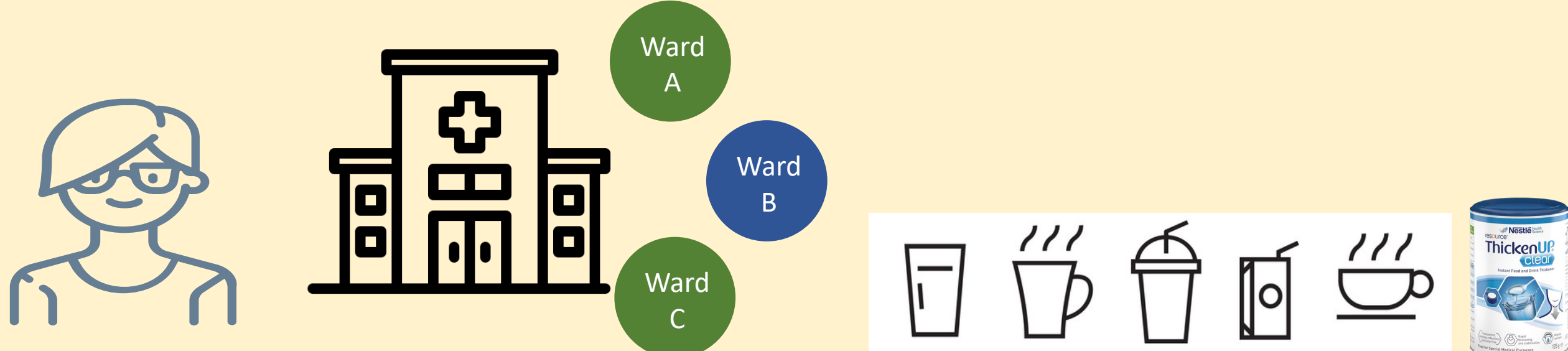
- Thickened fluids are not accurately prepared to the correct recommended fluid consistency.  
- This increases their risk of aspiration and might also lead to further medical complications such as aspiration pneumonia.



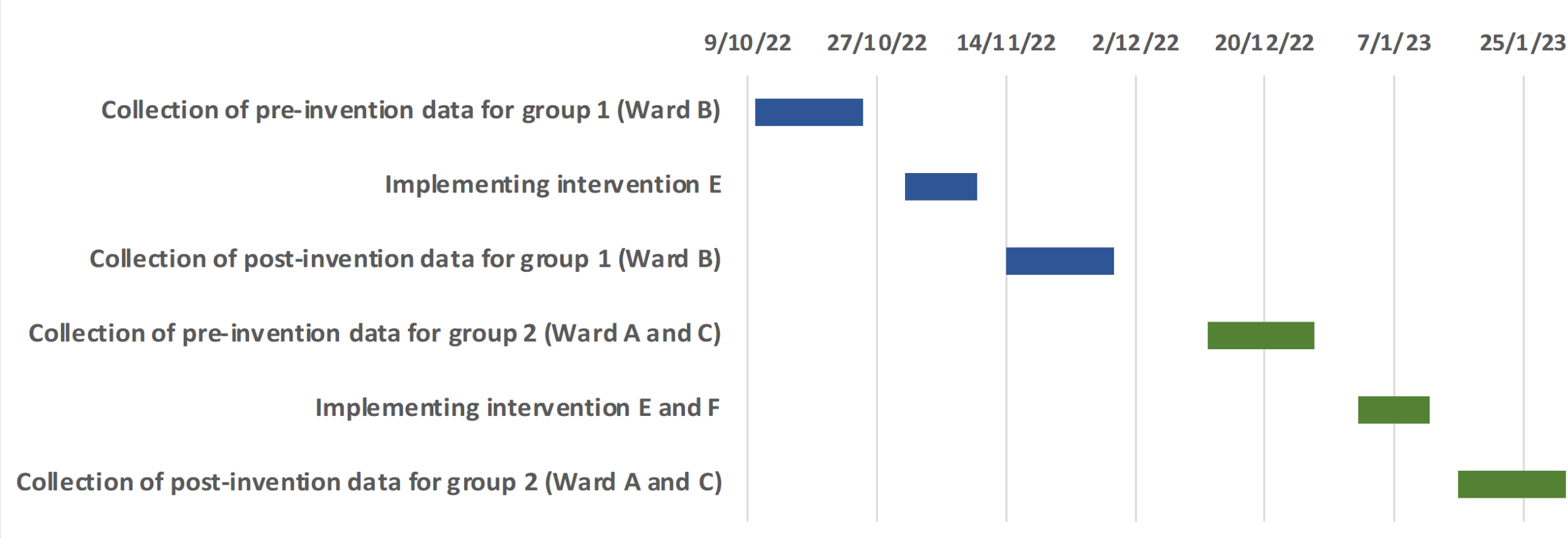
## Results



## Methods



### Timeline



## Outcomes

- Positive outcomes were observed post-intervention for group 1 (received Intervention E) and group 2 (received intervention E and F)
- Nursing staff had better knowledge and understood the importance of using the correct method and technique for preparing thickened fluids.
- Risk of aspiration minimised → reducing the probability in patients with dysphagia from developing further medical complications such as aspiration pneumonia → avoided unnecessary extension of inpatient hospital stays and kept morbidity rates low.

## Challenges

1. Difficulty with coordinating and arranging the education sessions for all nursing staff to minimise impact on overall nursing manpower.
2. Length of time needed for sourcing and selecting the most suitable 500ml measuring cup as well as having the purchase order approved.
3. Difficulty ensuring efficiency in every task because of low ST manpower.



## Acknowledgement

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