Well, Mary Poppins certainly was right about that. But a spoonful of sugar is not necessarily the only way to make the “medicine go down in the most delightful way”. We always assume that a pill will “do us good”. But if that pill has not been prepared to the highest quality standards, we might be swallowing more than we bargained for.

A complex component preparation chain lies behind every pill you pop into your mouth, involving a lot more than coating an active ingredient in sugar. Gases are used at various stages in that chain to accelerate the process or avoid contamination and degradation.

The most common of these gases is nitrogen, which is used to preserve product quality and integrity by removing and replacing unwanted oxygen during production and packaging.

Consider, for example, the headspace in an ampoule. Oxygen can react with the active ingredient, causing degradation and reducing effectiveness. It is thus often replaced with nitrogen (which is inert). Other areas where nitrogen is commonly used include purging, sparging and transportation/propulsion.

Gas purity control is the responsibility of the pharmaceutical manufacturer. Particularly in response to stricter legislative controls in Europe, the US and Japan, however, many are looking for greater support from their gas suppliers in this area. With the VERISEQ® Pharmaceutical Gas Concept (PGC), Linde Gas has taken a pioneering role in enabling pharmaceutical manufacturers to comply with FDA (Food and Drug Administration) demands and GMP (Good Manufacturing Practice) requirements on incoming materials. These quality-assured gas solutions, consisting of gases, hardware and services, make life a lot easier for pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Warmly welcomed by Linde’s pharmaceutical customers, VERISEQ® PGC ensures complete control and traceability.