



The **ORACLE**

Published by the Southern Maryland Dental Society





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ORACLE

Save the Dates
2026

Sep 14
GMM Live Webinar

Sep 18-20
MSDA CDC

Oct 5
GMM Live Webinar

Nov 2
GMM IN PERSON

Dec 7
GMM Live Webinar

President's Message:

June 2026

Navigating the Water Fluoridation Shortage with Clear Patient Communication

Spring Renewal, Advocacy, and Our Collective Voice

Dear Southern Maryland Dental Society Members,

Let's talk about Fluoride, again!

Recent disruptions in the supply of the fluoride compound commonly used in community water fluoridation have led some local water systems to temporarily reduce fluoride levels. WSSC Water, which serves Montgomery and Prince George's counties, recently announced a temporary reduction from the recommended 0.7 mg/L to 0.4 mg/L because of nationwide supply constraints, including reduced domestic production and operational impacts affecting an international supplier in Israel.



Organized dentistry is actively advocating on behalf of our communities. Dental leaders have engaged directly with WSSC Water to emphasize that while 0.7 mg/L remains the recommended target, concentrations below approximately 0.6 ppm may fall below the minimal therapeutic range for caries prevention. Recent evidence highlighted in JADA has also reinforced the public health concern, showing a significant increase in caries approximately five years after therapeutic fluoride levels were discontinued. In addition, MSDA has provided WSSC Water with a comprehensive list of alternative fluoride suppliers located in the United States and Canada, with the goal of helping restore community water fluoride concentrations to a therapeutic level as soon as feasible.

For our patients, announcements like this can create confusion. Some may wonder whether fluoride is still beneficial, whether their family is receiving the same level of cavity prevention, or whether they need to change their home care routine. As dentists, we have an opportunity to respond with calm, balanced, evidence-informed guidance that keeps the focus on prevention and individualized risk.

Community water fluoridation has long been recognized as a public health measure that supports cavity prevention across populations. However, when fluoridation levels are temporarily reduced, it becomes even more important for patients to understand that cavity prevention is multifactorial. Fluoride is one tool, but it works best alongside good home care, healthy dietary habits, routine dental visits, and individualized preventive recommendations.

Continued on pg. 2





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When discussing this issue with patients, consider using the following approach:

- **Explain what has changed.** Some water systems have temporarily reduced fluoride levels because of supply chain limitations. This may reduce the cavity-prevention benefit patients typically receive from community water fluoridation.
- **Reinforce daily prevention habits.** Encourage patients to brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste, floss daily, limit frequent sugar and acidic beverage exposure, and stay consistent with preventive dental care.
- **Identify higher-risk patients.** Children, patients with active decay, dry mouth, exposed root surfaces, orthodontic appliances, frequent snacking, special health care needs, or limited access to routine care may need additional support.
- **Offer professional and prescription options when appropriate.** Depending on risk level, consider fluoride varnish, prescription-strength toothpaste, fluoride rinses, sealants, silver diamine fluoride, or more frequent recall visits.
- **Broaden the prevention conversation.** This is also an opportunity to discuss nutrition, xylitol when appropriate, saliva support, hydroxyapatite products, sealants, and personalized caries-risk reduction strategies.

A simple chairside script for your staff may be helpful:

- *"You may have heard that some water systems are temporarily lowering fluoride levels because of a supply shortage. This may mean less cavity-prevention benefit from community water fluoridation during this period. The most important thing is to stay consistent with your home care routine and allow us to evaluate whether you or your child would benefit from additional preventive support, such as fluoride varnish, prescription toothpaste, sealants, or other options."*

As organized dentistry continues to monitor and advocate on this issue, we should be prepared to serve as trusted voices in our communities. Patients do not need alarm; they need clarity. They need to understand that prevention is still possible, that recommendations should be individualized, and that their dental team is available to help them make informed choices.

Thank you for continuing to educate, advocate, and lead with professionalism during moments when public health information can easily become confusing.

Warmly,

Dr. Kristen Millender
President, Southern Maryland Dental Society

**Stay Current on all Continuing Education
Trainings via our website!**

SMDSDentists.Org



Southern Maryland Dental Society

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The ORACLE is published eight times a year by the Southern Maryland Dental Society, 4920 Niagara Road, Suite 306, College Park MD and sent to all members of the Society.

The SMDS will publish signed articles relating to all phases of dentistry (space permitting), but assumes no responsibility for opinions expressed by the contributors.

Acceptance of advertising in no way constitutes professional approval or endorsement.

Deadlines for all materials is the 1st of the month preceding the issue. Publishing dates are August, September, October, November, January, February, March, May

Editor's Letter

Greetings Colleagues,

☀️ Summer is near! As we step into the summer season, it's the perfect time to reflect on wellness—and that includes oral health. June is National Oral Health Month, a time to raise awareness about the importance of dental care, discuss Fluoride with our patients, and encourage healthy habits that support life long smiles.

☀️ New Member Spotlight: Please join us in extending a warm welcome to our newest members:

- Dr. Jonathan Bacon
- Dr. Caroline Chun
- Dr. Syeda Mahbub
- Dr. Francis Morgan
- Dr. Jack Su
- Dr. Julie Williams

🚩 2026 Licensure Renewal Updates: 30 CE hours must be completed and submitted by June 30, 2026. Note that the Board now requires both an Implicit Bias Training program and a new, separate Structural Racism Training program to address healthcare equity.

Additionally, if your PANDA (Abuse/Neglect) certification is due, a \$25 online option is available via Biologix Solutions OR there will be a free course available this month at midatlanticpanda.org- sign up for updates on the course. Be sure to view pages 6-8 for the full breakdown, or contact the Board's licensing unit at 410-402-8500 with questions.

Warm Regards,

Dawn Clarke, DDS
Editor, Southern Maryland Dental Society
Smds.newsletter@gmail.com



Upcoming Meetings

Please mark your calendars and save the date for these upcoming meetings and events below.
Note: General membership meetings (GMM) dates are in **bold** and may be subject to changes.

2026

September 14, 2026 – GMM Live Webinar
October 5, 2026 – GMM Live Webinar
November 2, 2026 – GMM IN PERSON
December 7, 2026 – GMM Live Webinar

2027

January 11, 2027 – GMM Live Webinar
February 8, 2027 – GMM Live Webinar
March 8, 2027 – GMM IN PERSON
April 5, 2027 – GMM Live Webinar

REMINDER

General Membership Meetings are **FREE** to
SMDS members who register in advance.

Failure to register at least one week in ad-
vance will result in a \$25.00 late charge.

To register **Please call** 301.345.4196 or
Email valerie@smdsdentists.org

Southern Maryland Dental Society

Call for Leadership

SMDS needs YOU to serve!

We are looking for dedicated members to step into leadership roles and help guide our society forward. Your involvement makes a difference in our dental community!

Positions Available

SMDS Treasurer

SMDS Membership Committee

SMDS Programs Committee

SMDS DELEGATE to the MSDA

5 open spots

SMDS ALTERNATE DELEGATE

7 open spots

Interested? Ready to serve?

Contact: **Valerie Fridley**

valerie@smdsdentists.org

**Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners
Bulletin**

**New License and Certificate Renewal Requirements
for
Dentists, Dental Hygienists, and Dental Radiation Technologists
Implicit Bias Training Program and Structural Racism Training Program**

As the result of House Bill 783 passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2025, all applicants for renewal of licenses or certifications for health occupations, including dentists, dental hygienists, and dental radiation technologists, are required to complete a Structural Racism Training program approved by the Cultural and Linguistic Health Care Professional Competency Program within the Maryland Department of Health. The requirement applies to all dentists and dental hygienists whose licenses expire on June 30, 2026. It also applies to all dental radiation technologists who will be renewing their certificates after April 1, 2026. This requirement applies only to the first renewal cycle. You are required to complete the course one time only.

Please note that if you completed the course on Implicit Bias Training you are still required to complete the course on Structural Racism Training as a condition of license or certificate renewal after April 1, 2026. They are considered separate programs. You will be asked on the license or certificate renewal application to attest that you have successfully completed both an Implicit Bias Training Program and a Structural Racism Training program. If you do not complete both programs, you will not be eligible for license or certificate renewal.

Approved Structural Racism Training programs may be accessed through the following link: <https://health.maryland.gov/mhhd/Pages/Implicit-Bias-Resources.aspx>. Other courses are not approved.

If you are a dentist or a dental hygienist you may receive continuing education credit for completion of the course. The number of hours that you claim should equal the number of hours that it took you to complete the course. Keep in mind that a licensee may receive a combined total of no more than 4 continuing education hours for Board-approved courses on cultural competency, military culture, implicit bias training, and structural racism training.

In the past it has been reported that it was difficult to obtain a certificate of completion for some Implicit Bias Training Programs. You are therefore encouraged to take a screenshot once you have completed the Structural Racism Training Program. Please retain the certificate of completion, or the screenshot if a certificate of completion is not available.

Structural Racism courses have just recently become available. Therefore, the Board sincerely apologizes for the relatively short period to complete the program.

If you have any questions, please contact the Board's licensing unit at 410-402-8500.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Dear Colleagues,

As many people are in the process of renewing their licenses, we have had several questions come into the MSDA, and I wanted to help provide guidance on a few key points and changes this cycle. As always, please check with the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners with questions.

1. The **Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (MSBDE)** has resources available regarding fees, continuing education courses, forms and frequently asked questions. Please [click here for the latest bulletin](#) from the MSBDE about CE requirements.
2. 30 hours of continuing education (CE) are required for renewal each cycle.
3. There are new requirements for licensure renewal for completion of **both** a structural racism training and an implicit bias training course that have been **approved by the MSBDE**. This requirement only needs to be met once upon renewal. When you take the courses, they will count toward your 30 hours of CE requirement.
4. 2 hours of infection control is needed this year, but future years will require those renewing their licenses a single 3-hour course of infection control training. This is required every year.
5. Proper prescription writing and proper disposal of prescriptions (2 hours) is required every other renewal cycle.
6. CPR is required each cycle, but it does not count toward your 30 hours of CE.

In addition, the Legislative Affairs and MARPAC committees met this past week to discuss the legislative session (past and future) and review requests for campaign donations. Thanks to the very successful MARPAC golf classic, we are in a good position to provide support to many candidates who are friends of dentistry. As a reminder, if you are interested in supporting a candidate for the Maryland General Assembly, please let us know. There is a good chance MARPAC may be able to assist.

Have a great weekend, and a very Happy Mother's Day to all the moms out there!

Sincerely,
Steve

Stephen Dargan, DDS
Chair, Legislative Affairs Committee

Maryland Dental License Renewal: 2026–2027 CE Requirements

EVEN Renewal Years (2026)

Submit CE credits
earned between
**January 1, 2024, and
June 30, 2026.**

ODD Renewal Years (2027)

Submit CE credits
earned between
**January 1, 2025, and
June 30, 2027.**

Mandatory CE Requirements

Total CE Hours:
30 hours

The total **Mandatory**
hours required for every
renewal cycle.



Required, but
does not
count toward
30 hours CE
hours.

- **Infection Control:**
3 hours (**Required**
every renewal cycle
as a condition of
license renewal.)
- **One-time
Requirements:**
Implicit Bias &
Structural Racism
training (Both must be
completed once.)
tinyurl.com/mdimplicitbiastraining
- **Biennial Courses
(2 hours):**
PANDA & Proper
Prescription Writing
(**Required** every other
renewal cycle.)

****Note: 2 hours** Infection Control courses are accepted for 2026–2027 renewals.
****PANDA Update:** Monitor midatianticpanda.org for courses or take a \$25 paid **2 hours virtual course** at <https://blxtraining.com/course/abuse-and-neglect-prevention-for-dental-professionals/>.



2026 MSDA Chesapeake Dental Conference

September 18-20, 2026

Princess Royale

Ocean City, MD



2027 ADA Dentist and Student
Lobby Day

April 4-6, 2027

Marriott Marquis, Washington DC



2026 ADA Annual Scientific
Session

October 8-10, 2026

Indiana Convention Center

Indianapolis, IN

FOUNDATION FOR SMILES!



Be a star for brighter smiles ✨

Support MSDAF and help bring essential dental care to those in need. Every contribution makes a difference.

As a thank-you, your name will shine in the MSDA Newsletter, at the MSDA office, and on our website.



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MVP DONOR

\$10,000+

TIER 3:
DONATE 20+ STARS!



GOLD DONOR

\$2,500+

TIER 1:
DONATE 5+ STARS!



ALL-STAR DONOR

\$5,000+

TIER 2:
DONATE 10+ STARS!



STAR DONOR

\$500-2,000

**NEW DENTIST PRICE*

4: \$2000, \$1000 2: \$1000, \$500
3: \$1500, \$750 1: \$500, \$250



STEP ONE YOUR INFORMATION

name

address

city / state zip code

preferred phone number home cell work



8900A Herrmann Dr
Columbia, MD 21045
foundation@msda.com
410-642-2880 ext. 110

STEP TWO

YOUR GIFT!

SCAN HERE!
for an online
donation!



- PERSONAL CHECK \$
attached; Make payable to the MSDA Foundation
- ONLINE PAYMENT \$
Scan one of the QR codes
- Stock \$
- Email us for more Information @ Foundation@MSDA.com
- Qualified Charitable
Distribution \$

Email us for more Information @ Foundation@MSDA.com

The MSDA Foundation Presents

GIVE VETERANS A SMILE



GET INVOLVED!

- 1. DONATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE MISSION**
- 2. BECOME A PROVIDER DENTIST FOR VETERANS**
- 3. VOLUNTEER FOR FUTURE EVENTS**



SCAN HERE TO
BECOME A PROVIDER



SCAN HERE TO
DONATE

**Aerospace Dentistry;
Challenges,
Considerations, and
Practice
(2 CEs)**

June 24, 2026

**7pm-9pm
Live Virtual**



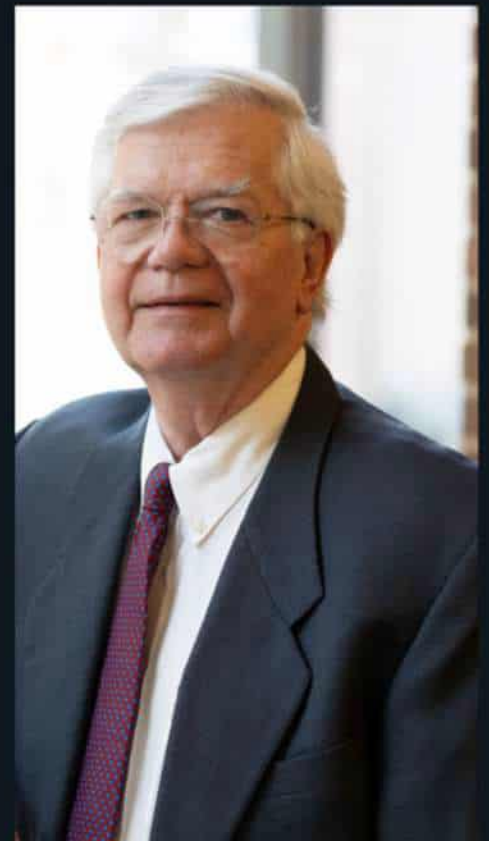
Michael H. Hodapp, DDS



**Dental CBCT
Interpretation
(3 CEs)**

July 15, 2026

**6pm-9pm
Live Virtual**



Jeffrey Price, DDS

National Museum of Dentistry

31 S. Greene Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201
dentalmuseum.com



Special Offer for MSDA Members!

Be a part of the story. Become a member.

NMD COLLEAGUE SPECIAL MSDA MEMBERSHIP	INDIVIDUAL (\$50 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	FAMILY (\$88 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)	DENTAL OFFICE (\$138 TAX-DEDUCTIBLE)
\$ FREE	\$ 50	\$ 100	\$ 150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One FREE annual visit to the museum <p>Become a NMD Colleague Member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FREE Admission 10% Discount on Gift Shop purchase 5% Discount on Facility Rentals <p>Become an Individual Member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FREE Admission 10% discount on Gift Shop purchase 5% discount on facility rentals Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits* <p>Become a Family Member</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FREE Admission 20% discount on Gift Shop purchase 20% discount on facility rentals Smithsonian Affiliate Membership benefits* <p>Become a Dental Office Member</p>

Visit

dentalmuseum.com/msdamembers

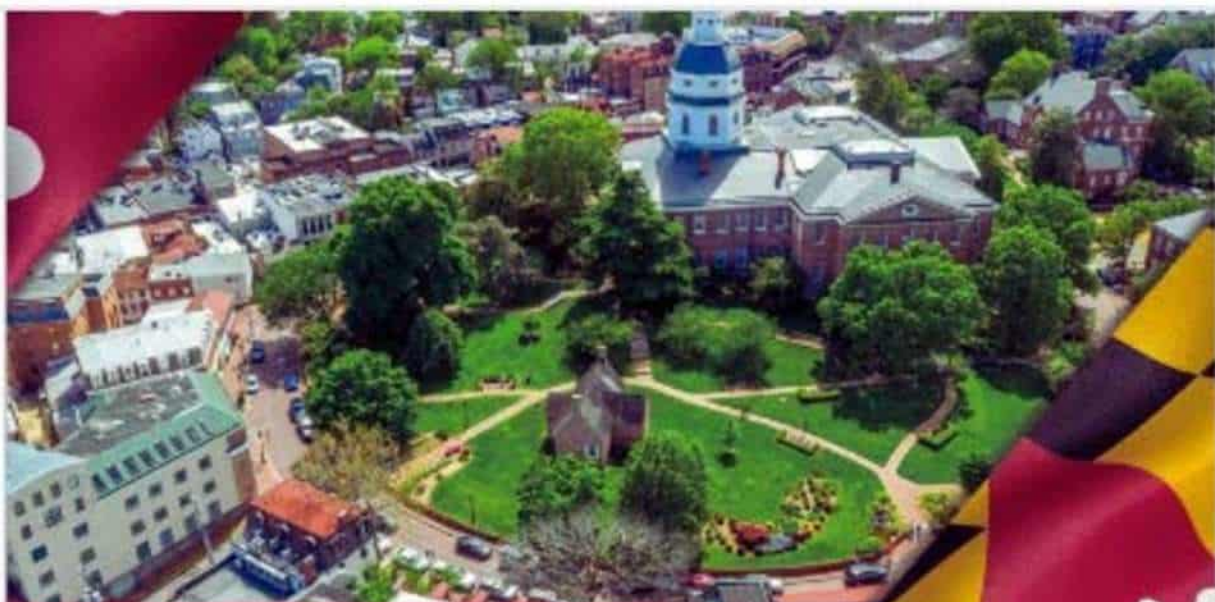
or scan the QR Code below
for a **1-year FREE membership** to the
National Museum of Dentistry.



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MSDA

Maryland State Dental Association



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UNLOCK THE POWER OF MEMBERSHIP WITH MSDA: YOUR GATEWAY TO EXCEPTIONAL BENEFITS!

WHY CHOOSE THE MSDA?

As a member of the Maryland State Dental Association, you are part of a dynamic community that's dedicated to advancing the dental profession. Explore the incredible benefits that come with your MSDA membership:

CAREER ADVANCEMENT

- Propel your career with guidance and support from MSDA Career Center.
- Join committees and engage in leadership opportunities.
- Access tools to help you succeed in the dental field.

STAY INFORMED

- Stay up-to-date on the latest industry news and trends.
- Advocate for dental healthcare at local and national levels.
- Receive exclusive updates on legislative matters affecting your practice.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

- Enjoy member-only discounts on products and services through MSDA Member Perks.
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NETWORKING

- Build lasting connections with fellow dental professionals.
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ADVOCACY

- Be part of a unified voice for dentistry in Maryland.
- Influence policy decisions that impact your profession.
- Participate in advocacy efforts for the betterment of oral healthcare.

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Columbia, MD 21045

Bridging Gaps in Oral Care Accessibility - Assessing Knowledge of Provider Preparedness in Serving the Deaf Community

The purpose of this study is to evaluate oral health practitioners' experience and preparedness in caring for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community and highlight awareness for ADA legal obligations

By joining the study, you will complete a short survey (1-2min).

No incentives will be given for participation and no penalties will be given if you choose to opt out.



By scanning the QR code above, you consent to participate in the survey and confirm you adhere to the following criteria:

- 1) Are 18 years or older**
- 2) Serve in one of the following professional roles: dental assistant, dental hygienist, dental therapist, dentist (including dental specialties), dental hygiene students, and dental students.**

All responses will be submitted anonymously and are voluntary. Please answer honestly. Any questions can be directed to the principle investigator (contact information below)

Principal Investigator: Suzanne Burgee

Email: sburgee1@umaryland.edu

Protocol Number: HP#-00116688

HEALTHY VOLUNTEER RESEARCH STUDY

You May Qualify For This Study If You:
Are 18 years or older, have a minimum of 20 natural teeth, and are willing to allow genetic testing.

Study Details:

- 1 hour screening visit
- 2 hour out-patient visit
- An oral exam, medical and dental history
- Dental X-rays and photos
- Provide a blood, urine and saliva sample
- Gum Biopsy



FOR MORE INFORMATION

NIH Clinical Center
Office of Patient Recruitment
800-411-1222 | TTY dial 7-1-1
ccopr@nih.gov

Study #12-D -0100
<https://go.usa.gov/xpuTQ>



National Institute of Dental
and Craniofacial Research

CONTACT US

NIH Clinical Center

Office of Patient Recruitment

800-411-1222

ccopr@nih.gov

Visit: ClinicalTrials.gov

Study Number 12-D-0100

Laurie Brenchley RDH, MS

Laurie.brenchley@nih.gov

Phone: 301-451-2551



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL
AND
CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH

ORAL IMMUNITY

ORAL IMMUNITY

The oral cavity is a unique environment. Researchers seek to further understand the immune systems in the oral cavity by looking at environmental triggers that may cause a higher chance of gum disease.

THE STUDY

Researchers are interested in looking at the oral bacteria and genotypes of people that present with periodontal disease at an early age (before age 35) or have a persistent decline in their periodontal status despite consistent and adequate oral hygiene care and treatment.

ELIGIBILITY

You May Qualify for This Study If You Are:

- At least 7 years of age
- Have been diagnosed with the disease periodontitis (gum disease)

You May Not Qualify If You:

- Have a history of an autoimmune disorder (such as lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
- Are pregnant or breast feeding
- Have a bleeding disorder
- Have had radiation therapy to the head or neck

Study Visits Include

- 1-hour screening visit
- 2-hour out-patient visit
- An oral exam, medical and dental history
- Dental X-rays and photos
- Provide a blood, urine and saliva sample
- Gum Biopsy

The Classifieds

DENTAL OPERATORY FOR SUB-LEASE !!

Great option for retired Dentists who want to practice 1 or 2 days per week OR new graduates looking for opportunity to future

buy-in/full purchase of an established community general family practice.

Available: 2 large fully equipped Ops with assets valued \$250,000. in spacious 3000 square feet of 6 Ops; 21st Century digital private

practice. Prime location downtown Silver Spring, MD. 20910; 2nd Floor with park-view; at 1300 Spring St. off busy street - Georgia Ave;

Please make contact by email: DentalAppt4U@Hotmail.com

SPACE FOR RENT 2-3 DAYS/WEEK

A 4-operatory office space in Silver Spring Maryland is available for rent 2-3 days a week. If interested, please send a text to 301-275-5752.

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