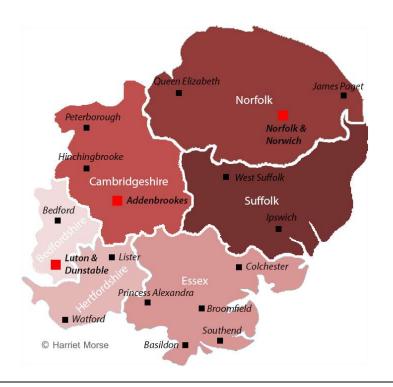






East of England Neonatal ODN Registered Nurse Pre-QIS Competency Document



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Personal details

Name	
Signature	
Revalidation / renewal date	
Start date	
Designated preceptor / buddy	
Associate preceptor / buddy	
1 month review date	
3 month review date	
6 month review date	
Local Practice Development	
Nurse(s)	
Local Lead Nurse	

Purpose of the document

Welcome to your new role as a neonatal nurse in the East of England neonatal operational delivery network (ODN). We understand that this role transition, whether you are newly qualified or are coming to neonatal services from another speciality is a time when you will need support and guidance. There is a lot to learn!

This document has been developed by the East of England neonatal practice development group in order to ensure equity for staff between units. The purpose of this document is to take you through from novice neonatal nurse to competence in the knowledge and skills listed. You will be supported by your local practice development nurse(s) and designated preceptor(s) to develop your practice and deliver standardised evidence based care. This document is used across the East of England ODN in all 17 units.

Guidelines on completion of this competency document

In order to ensure equity across all units, guidance is given on what is expected during the first few months in your new role. You should have access to the document within the first week of starting your new role and your practice development nurse(s) and preceptor(s) will work with you to ensure you are given the opportunity to complete all sections within the time period set in your local unit. The time period for completion may differ in some units depending on expected activity.

The level required during final assessment is that of competent practitioner. The competent practitioner is described below, please see page 6

This document comprises the basic skills required by the neonatal nurse to competently care for an infant requiring level 1 neonatal care. Your preceptor will be competent in all of the dimensions and skills listed but you are also able to be assessed by any member of staff competent in the individual skill. This may include the nursery nurse / non-registered nurse group who are highly skilled and will play a big part in your learning and development. If you are unsure of who should assess your competence please discuss with your preceptor(s) or practice development nurse(s).

Space is given for documentation of a discussion or observation of the skills as well as the assessment of practice. You may require more than one assessment if you have yet to achieve level 3 competence and these assessments should be graded in order for you and your preceptor to see progress

towards a specific learning outcome. If you achieve level 3 competent at the first assessment then the competency achieved box should be completed and the other 2 assessment boxes should remain blank.

There are teaching packages developed by the ODN practice development nurse group which are available to support your learning. Your PDN will be able to give you access to these.

You will be able to discuss your progress and the completion of this document with your local practice development nurse(s) or preceptor(s) at any time.

Assessment of competency - Benner taxonomy

Novice – Taxonomy Level One

Novices have no experience of the situation they find themselves in, and they operate by closely following rules laid down by others. They perform a series of tasks without understanding, or referring to, the context within which they are operating.

Advanced Beginner – Taxonomy Level Two

Advanced beginners demonstrate a degree of flexibility in their performance and interpret the rules to meet the needs of the situation, maintaining throughout the safety of the patient, colleagues, others and self. They are able to relate to the current situation, based on prior learning.

Competent - Taxonomy Level Three

Competent practitioners are consciously aware of long-term effects of their actions. They are able to plan the most satisfactory outcome of a situation, and take the appropriate action to achieve the planned aims. This requires conscious, abstract, analytical contemplation of the situation.

- Has detailed knowledge and awareness of polices/procedures/guidelines, which may be applied.
- Discriminate and choose which of the polices/procedures/guidelines apply within the situation.
- Conscious, deliberate planning. Anticipates outcomes and gives explanations for the interpretations made and the interventions used.
- Able to analyse and challenge research findings, evidence based practice and received opinion.
- Identifies priorities and key elements of problems.
- Performance is proficient and confident requiring minimum direct supervision.

<u>Proficient – Taxonomy Level Four</u>

Proficient practitioners use their expertise to critically analyse and evaluate situations as a whole. They are able to identify the more important elements of a situation and make decisions based on a broad perspective.

Take a global or holistic view of the situation and relate it to ethics and professional practice, (creativity, innovation and change).

Expert – Taxonomy Level Five

Experts are able to focus on a relevant part of a situation without conscious consideration. They will use their intuition, based on vast experience; to follow a course of action which they 'know' is appropriate. An expert practitioner develops a feel for situations and a vision of possibilities. Not all members of the multi-professional teams are capable of reaching this level – it could be assisted by techniques such as critical incident analysis.

Staff nurse responsibilities

Whilst staff on the neonatal unit will support you to complete the learning outcomes in this document, **you** are ultimately responsible for your own learning. As such, you must ensure that:

- The document is available to your practice development nurse(s) or preceptor at all times. You should have this document with you during every clinical shift.
- You should arrange dates for meetings with your preceptor at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- You must inform your practice development nurse(s) if you feel you are not getting the support you require during clinical shifts or if you are unable for any reason to arrange or complete the progress meetings with your preceptor.
- You attend any relevant training sessions.
- You actively seek learning opportunities in order to complete the assessments.
- You should complete and keep copies of your supported shift logs. These will be required during progress meetings.

Practice Development Nurse(s) / lead nurse responsibilities

The local lead nurse / practice development nurse(s) are responsible for:

- Allocation of a suitable preceptor(s)
- Requesting feedback from your preceptor(s) regarding progress and escalating concerns as required
- Ensuring that you are aware of the educational opportunities available on your local unit and across the ODN if applicable.

Preceptor responsibilities

Your preceptor(s) are responsible for:

- Keeping up to date with your progress and ensuring competencies are achieved within the set time frame. This may require discussion with other team members that you have worked with
- Completion of the record of meeting form.
- Contributing to the supervised shift log record.

• Ensuring that you are aware of the educational opportunities available on your local unit

Meetings with Preceptor

You should meet with your designated preceptor or practice development nurse a minimum of 3 times during the first 6 months of your new role. These meetings should be planned for the end of the supernumerary period, 3 months and 6 months following your start date and should take place away from the clinical area ideally when you have no clinical commitments (for example at the end of the shift when you have handed over care).

Meetings can be more frequent if required and the reasons for this frequency should be indicated on the proforma.

The purpose of these meetings is to discuss progress towards your learning objectives. You and your preceptor should complete the proforma included on the following pages at the end of each meeting. Please include as much detail about your progress as you can, you may want to make notes between meetings so progress can be accurately assessed.

Record of meeting

Staff nurse name	Staff nurse signature	
Preceptor name	Preceptor signature	
Date of meeting	Date of next meeting	
Staff nurse comments		
Summary of discussion of progress towards learning objectives		
Agreed action plan (including timeframe)		

Record of meeting

Staff nurse name	Staff nurse signature	
Preceptor name	Preceptor signature	
Date of meeting	Date of next meeting	
Staff nurse comments		
Summary of discussion of progress towards learning objective		
Agreed action plan (including timeframe)		

Record of meeting

Staff nurse name	Staff nurse signature
Preceptor name	Preceptor signature
Date of meeting	Date of next meeting
Staff nurse comments	
Summary of discussion of progress towards learning objective	
Agreed action plan (including timeframe)	

Policies and guidelines

Local and ODN policies and guidelines are available to support you in your practice. ODN guidelines can be located at https://www.networks.nhs.uk/nhs-networks/eoe-neonatal-odn/guidelines Your local practice development nurse(s) will inform you of where local guidelines can be located.

Equipment competencies

There are a number of equipment competencies that you will need to complete during the first months of your new role. These will be given to you by your local PD nurse(s) during induction.

Core clinical skills

Patient safety checks

Aim:					
The nurse is able to perform patient safety checks					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed Date and signature	Assessment 1 Date and signature	Assessment 2 Date and signature	Level 3 competence Date and signature	
Demonstrate competence in the checking and use of the cot side emergency equipment					
Ensures that the patient environment is clean and hazard free					
Ensures all alarm limits are set according to individual patient					
Understands the importance of recording asset numbers					
Checks the patient has 2 identification bands					
Receives handover at the start of the shift and is able to handover following a period of care using an appropriate communication tool (for example SBAR)					
Checks fluid infusions (including pressure limits, site, VIP score) and milk volumes with the nurse handing over from the previous shift					

Comprehensive patient assessment

Aim:					
The nurse is able to demonstrate the full assessment of an infant in the SCBU area					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	
Is able to recognise the normal behaviour for the					
gestational and postnatal age					
Accurately assess each body system of the					
newborn infant, identifying any deviations from					
the normal for gestational and postnatal age					
Respiratory system					
Cardiovascular system					
Skin					
Neurological system					
Renal system					
GI system					
Is able to document findings of comprehensive					
assessment					
Is able to escalate concerns relating to assessment					
of the infant					
Is able to plan care based on the full assessment of					
the infant					

Monitoring

Aim:					
The nurse is able to monitor the infant effectively					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	
Understands normal parameters (RR / oxygen					
saturation / blood pressure) for different gestational					
ranges and sets monitor alarm limits appropriately					
recognise and respond appropriately to alarms in					
timely manner					
demonstrate correct placement of respiratory					
monitoring					
demonstrate the setting up and placement of ECG					
monitoring					
demonstrate the setting up and placement of non-					
invasive blood pressure monitoring					
Discuss indications for continuous temperature					
monitoring					
demonstrate the setting up and placement of skin					
temperature monitoring					
demonstrate the setting up and placement of					
oxygen saturation monitoring					
outline how saturation monitoring works and					
discuss indication for use					

Admission to the SCBU area

Aim:				
The nurse is able to safely complete the admis	sion of an infant to the S	CBU area of the neon	atal unit	
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Is able to set up a cot space for an anticipated				
admission				
Receive the infant to SCBU area and assume				
responsibility for on-going care				
Completes the first hour of care paperwork if the				
infant is being admitted immediately following				
delivery				
Complete admission specific documentation and				
procedures including blood spot and admission				
swabs				
Complete a full comprehensive assessment of the				
infant paying particular attention to the history				
given during handover				
Formulate and document a plan of care based on				
the comprehensive assessment				
Accurately escalates concerns to nursing or				
medical colleagues				
Welcomes and orientates the parents and family				
to the neonatal unit giving appropriate and				
accurate information				

Communication with families

Aim:					
The nurse is able to demonstrate effective and timely communication with families					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	
Work in partnership with parents and families to					
promote family centred care					
Provide or signpost families to information with					
which to make informed choices and support them					
in their decision making					
Recognises the specific needs of siblings within the					
Neonatal environment.					
Knows the visiting guidelines and ensures that these					
are adhered to where possible					
Support practices which promote families spending					
time with their infant according to their individual					
circumstances					
Demonstrate the knowledge and use of interpreting					
facilities					
Know where to obtain Neonatal and infant care					
related media in a parents native language					
Acts as an advocate for infants and families within					
the service					
Demonstrates knowledge of the chaplaincy					
department and the services they are able to offer					
to different religious groups					
Demonstrates a knowledge of the grievance					
procedure which includes PALS					

Recognising deterioration and initiation of resuscitation

Aim:					
The nurse is able to recognise when an infant is deteriorating and initiate resuscitation					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	
Demonstrate competence in the checking and use					
of the cot side emergency equipment					
Recognise normal respiratory function and					
appropriate parameters for preterm and term					
infants					
Recognise normal cardiovascular function and					
appropriate parameters for preterm and term					
infants					
Demonstrate knowledge of predisposing factors to					
apnoea and bradycardias					
Demonstrate accurate record keeping of apnoea					
and bradycardic events					
Can identify signs that an infant's					
respiratory/cardiovascular status is deteriorating					
Can complete the neonatal alert trigger and track					
tool and escalate accordingly					

Nutrition and feeding

Aim:					
The nurse is able to ensure adequate nutrition for the infant in SCBU					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	
Is able to safely carry out all methods of enteral					
feeding					

	T	
Gastric tube		
Bottle feeding		
Cup feeding		
Complete BFI training		
Understands the importance of expiry time of fresh		
and frozen breast milk and formula		
Recognises feeding cues and responds appropriately		
according to parental feeding choices		
Is able to identify common medical conditions,		
medications and maternal conditions that		
contraindicate the use of breast milk and knows		
where to seek advice if required		
Supports parents in their choice of formula milk if		
required		
Understands the rationale for different formula		
including preterm formula and supplements		
Administers prescribed milk supplements		
Can calculate feed requirements using dosing		
weight		
Can accurately calculate feed advancement using		
East of England feeding protocols		
Is able to identify when an oro or nasogastric tube		
may be required		
Complete the gastric tube competency		
Is able to describe actions to take if unable to		
determine correct positioning of a gastric tube using		
the usual methods		
Is able to support the parents to tube feed their		
infant giving the information required prior to		
parent assessment		
Can identify deterioration in an infant's ability to		
tolerate enteral feeds - clinical signs and symptoms		
and can explain how and when to escalate a concern		

Is able to refer the parent to a feeding advisor when required (if available locally)		
Is able to refer the infant to the speech and		
language therapist when required (if available)		

Hygiene, skin and mouth care

Aim: The pures is able to sare for the busines needs of the infent				
The nurse is able to care for the hygiene needs of the infant Learning objectives: Observed / Discussed Assessment 1 Assessment 2 Level 3 competence				
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Uses appropriate measures to maintain skin				
integrity				
Uses a scoring system to assess and document the				
condition of the skin				
Delivers effective hygiene care for the infant at an				
appropriate time				
Is able to support the parent(s) in care giving in				
relation to hygiene, skin and mouth care				

Blood glucose control

Aim:				
The nurse is able to recognise blood sugar outside of the normal range and effectively care for the infant with hypo / hyperglycaemia				
Learning objectives: Observed / Discussed Assessment 1 Assessment 2 Level 3 competence				Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Is able to identify normal blood glucose ranges				
Is able to recognise the signs and symptoms of				
hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia				

Is able to locate the hypoglycaemia guideline and		
demonstrate understanding of the steps to take		
Is able to escalate concerns appropriately for the		
hypoglycaemic infant		
Can discuss when a blood glucose should be taken		
for infants of different gestational and postnatal		
ages		
Is able to accurately record the blood glucose result		

Jaundice

Aim:					
The nurse is able to identify hyperbilirubinaemia and care for an infant who is jaundiced					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	
Identifies the signs of hyperbilirubinaemia					
Describe the normal breakdown and excretion of					
red blood cells					
Identify which infant are at risk of developing					
physiological and pathological jaundice					
Discuss the anatomy of the heel in relation to blood					
sampling sites					
Perform a safe and effective capillary blood sample					
Accurately plot the serum bilirubin (SBR) on the					
appropriate gestation chart					
In conjunction with the medical team, makes care					
decisions based on the plotted SBR					
Demonstrate safe set up of an overhead					
phototherapy unit					
Demonstrate safe set up of a biliblanket / bilibed					
phototherapy unit					

Demonstrate safe care for an infant receiving		
phototherapy		
Support the parents of the jaundiced infant		
receiving phototherapy including suitable		
explanation of neonatal jaundice and phototherapy		
Discuss the actions that should be taken if		
phototherapy is not effective in reduction of SBR		
including escalation of care		

Respiratory system

Aim:					
The nurse is able to effectively care for an infant with a suspected or diagnosed respiratory disorder.					
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	
Understands the risks associated with oxygen					
administration to the preterm population in relation					
to retinopathy of prematurity and chronic lung					
disease					
identify signs of abnormal respiratory function and					
recognises causes of respiratory distress					
competently care for an infant receiving ambient					
oxygen					
competently care for an infant receiving nasal					
cannula oxygen					
Complete the oral and nasopharyngeal suction					
competency					
understand the difference between central and					
obstructive apnoea and can discuss the treatment					
options of each					
discuss how infant position may facilitate optimal					
lung expansion					

discuss the causes of CLD and impact on the infant		
and family		
demonstrates the nursing care of an infant with CLD		
in the SCBU area		

Cardiovascular system

Aim:				
The nurse is able to effectively care for an infant	with a suspected or diag	gnosed cardiovascula	r disorder.	
Learning objectives: Observed / Discussed Assessment 1 Assessment 2 Level 3 competence				
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
identify signs of abnormal cardiovascular function				
and recognises causes of cardiovascular collapse				
Demonstrates knowledge of the predisposing				
factors to bradycardia				
Is able to respond immediately to the infant with a				
bradycardia or tachycardia				
Is able to record the bradycardia accurately and				
escalate concerns as appropriate				

Thermoregulation

Aim:				
The nurse is able to maintain the infant temperature within the normal range				
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Is able to assess and document infant temperature				
using skin and axilla measurement devices				
Can list 4 methods of heat loss and understands				

how these relate to and can be minimised for the		
term and preterm infant		
Uses appropriate strategies to maintain body		
temperature. These might include		
Use of an incubator		
Use of a hot cot		
Use of skin to skin care		
Use of clothing and blankets		
Uses interventions to correct hypo or hyperthermia		
Can discuss the use of humidity for the preterm		
population		
Is able to prepare parents for thermal care of the		
infant prior to discharge home		

Elimination and fluid balance

Aim: The nurse is able to manage fluid balance of the infant in SCBU				
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Recognise normal gastrointestinal function, stool				
frequency and appearance and document and				
report deviations				
Can perform urinalysis and document findings				

Pain assessment and management

Aim:				
The nurse is able to assess and manage infant pain				
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Recognises normal behaviour for different				
gestational and postnatal ages				
Is able to describe the physiological and behavioural				
responses to painful procedures				
Is able to describe the physiological and behavioural				
responses to chronic pain				
Recognises and documents signs of pain using a				
neonatal pain assessment tool				
Is able to provide suitable comfort and pain relief to				
an infant experiencing procedural pain				
Is able to provide suitable comfort and pain relief to				
an infant experiencing surgical pain				
is able to support parents of an infant in their care				
giving approach to the infant in pain				

Infection prevention and control

Aim:				
The nurse is able to take steps to prevent infecti	on in the infant and reco	gnise signs of establi	shed sepsis	
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Implements correct hand hygiene				
Ensures colleagues, parents and visitors implement				
the correct hand hygiene				
Ensures compliance with infection control measures				

such as gloves and aprons for all infant care		
Is able to manage the immediate environment in		
relation to prevention of infection. E.g. damp		
dusting of all surfaces		
Ensures compliance with infection control measures		
when barrier nursing an infant		
Is able to recognise signs of infection, documents		
findings and escalates as required		
Understands the correct MRSA screening protocol		
Demonstrates how to perform swab screening		
Demonstrates correct aseptic non touch technique		
Understands the difference between a full and		
partial septic screen and understands when each are		
completed		

Developmentally supportive care giving

Aim:				
The nurse is able to provide developmentally supportive care				
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Demonstrates an awareness of the developmental				
differences between infants of different gestational				
ages				
Identifies the stresses for the infant in the SCBU				
environment and is able to discuss how the neonatal				
nurse can reduce the impact of this stress for the				
infant in his/her care				
Work in partnership with parents and families to				
provide developmentally supportive care				
Discusses the importance of supported positioning				

for the term and preterm population		
Is able to discuss the impact of touch and handling		
on the infant. This should include positive touch		
Is able to support the parent(s) and family in		
providing positive touch		
Knows the importance of non-nutritive sucking and		
can advise the parent(s) according to gestational age		
and medical condition of the infant		

Neonatal blood spot screening

Aim:				
The nurse is able to recognise the need for and initiate neonatal blood spot screening				
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Knows the normal blood spot screening schedule				
Is able to explain the newborn blood spot screening				
tool to parents				
Accurately completes the blood spot form				
Is able to take a sample of blood of the required				
standard for blood spot screening				
Understands the guidance should a suitable blood				
sample not be obtained at the right time				
Understands how results of the blood spot are				
reported to the neonatal team and parent				
Complete the online learning package				
http://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/Register				

Administration of medication

Aim: The nurse is able to safely manage an infant receiving intravenous therapy				
			Level 3 competence	
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Complete the local oral drug competency				
Complete the local IV drug competency				
Complete a locally agreed drug calculation test				

Safeguarding children

Aim:				
The nurse is able to identify the family with safeguarding issues and escalate accordingly				
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Complete local level 1, 2 and 3 safeguarding training				

Transfer and discharge

Aim:				
The learner is able to safely discharge or transfe	The learner is able to safely discharge or transfer an infant from SCBU			
Learning objectives:	Observed / Discussed	Assessment 1	Assessment 2	Level 3 competence
	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature	Date and signature
Initiate and plan discharge at an appropriate time				
and in collaboration with the family and				
multidisciplinary team				

Refer the infant and family to community neonatal services if required		
Participate in parent education and health		
promotion that is required prior to discharge		
Ensure that all aspects of parent education are		
completed prior to discharge		
Prepare families for infant discharge using national		
guidelines.		
This may include:		
Prevention of SIDS		
Recognition of the unwell infant		
Administration of medicines		
Thermoregulation		
Infant feeding		
Order medicines required on discharge and ensure		
parents are able to administer these safely		
Ensure future plan of care is communicated to the		
parents. This may include follow up appointments,		
community neonatal care		
Complete the discharge checklist to ensure all care		
is completed		
Accurately hand over care if infant is being		
transferred to another setting		

Document development group

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Adapted from the pan London neonatal nurse competency document and band 5 competency document Peterborough and Stamford Hospital NHS Trust (now known as North West Anglia Health trust).

This document is copyrighted but the importance of sharing is recognised and the EoE practice development group welcome requests for use or development of this tool from other ODN's. Correspondence should be directed to Erica Everett, Network lead nurse practice development.





Confirmation of completion

This certifies that

Name:	
-------	--

Date:

Local Hospital:

Has successfully completed the relevant sections of the East of England ODN

Pre QIS competency document

Staff Nurse Name: Signature:

Preceptor Name: Signature:

PDN Name: Signature:

Name:	
Further development needs:	
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