

Premier Pulse

News and Information for Premier Health Physicians
and Advanced Practice Providers

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A Child's Curiosity

By **Scott Kanagy, DO**, chief medical officer,
Atrium Medical Center

I recently sat and watched a young child explore and was struck by how curious they were about their surroundings, their interactions with people, and how things worked. It made me curious why so many people lose this skill as they grow older. I believe it's because we normalize and accept our world as we age. This is a reality that I do not think any of us should accept. If more of us were curious about the events occurring around us and the people we interact with, great things could happen. During my masters of business administration studies I learned a valuable in-class lesson about the way curiosity can sometimes lead to a simple solution that benefits everyone. I wonder, as individuals interact, do they really think about what each person wants versus what they need and what others want and need? How could we improve the care of our patients if we were more curious about patients' care barriers or why they are not getting better? What if we were more curious about the needs versus the wants of the many partners in our health care system that have different roles necessary to bring about better care versus our wants and needs? It seems to me that the solution to many of the concerns several people have in health care today are not that far away if only more people would be curious and have open conversations with each other. At the center of this issue is the patient. Being more curious about the patient will bring the best care for that individual. Additionally, being curious health care providers while working together is crucial to providing great care. So next time you interact with a patient, be more curious. When interacting with colleagues and other partners in the health care system, be more curious, and seek out the common ground from which we can deliver the best care for our patients. After all, it's why we do what we do every day.

Organizational Restructuring Updates

By **Darin Pangalangan, MD**, system vice president of clinical service lines, Premier Health and **Kelli Ashbeck**, director of surgical services and orthopedics, Premier Health



Exciting changes are happening within the service lines, including an organizational restructuring that will help break down silos and improve decision-making across all sites in the system. All seven service lines will now report up through Darin Pangalangan, MD, system vice president of clinical service lines, to increase collaboration and strategic alignment and allow for more efficient prioritization. With those changes, there are new members of the surgical, orthopedics, and women service lines. To offer operational and strategic oversight across the system, Amy Stockman transitioned to the Vice President over the Surgical Services and Orthopedics service lines, and Melissa Merritt will transition to Vice President over Women’s Services service lines. Kelli Ashbeck will serve as Service Line Director for Surgical Services and Orthopedics.

These roles will allow us to dig deeper into surgical services opportunities from a systems lens. Targeted areas of opportunity include the assessment of appropriate surgical sites of service, optimization of OR block time, and evaluation of system robotic strategy. If you have an interest in sharing ideas or opportunities for improved efficiency across the system, please don’t hesitate to reach out to either Amy or me.

For a full list of leaders driving each of our service lines, please see below.



SERVICE LINE	ROLE	NAME
Cardiovascular	Physician Executive Lead	Robert Bulow, DO
	Operations Vice President	TBD
	Service Line Director	Lyndsey Pittman
Emergency and Trauma	Physician Executive Lead	Jeremy Moore, MD
	Operations Vice President	Christian Lawson
Neurosciences	Physician Executive Lead	Bryan Ludwig, MD
	Operations Vice President	Jason Merritt
	Service Line Director	Zakiya Robinson
Oncology	Physician Executive Lead	Jim Ouelette, DO
	Operations Vice President	TBD
	Service Line Director	Lori Scalise
Orthopedics	Physician Executive Lead	Mike Herbenick, MD
	Operations Vice President	Amy Stockman
	Service Line Director	Kelli Ashbeck
Surgical Services	Physician Executive Lead	TBD
	Operations Vice President	Amy Stockman
	Service Line Director	Kelli Ashbeck
Women’s Services	Physician Executive Lead	Will Andrew, DO
	Operations Vice President	Melissa Merritt
	Service Line Director	Lyndsey Pittman

Premier Health Hospitals Earn 'A's from the Leapfrog Group

The Leapfrog Group has awarded an "A" safety grade for spring 2023 to three Premier Health hospitals: Atrium Medical Center, Miami Valley Hospital, and Upper Valley Medical Center. This national distinction recognizes the hospitals' achievements in protecting patients from preventable harm and error.

The Leapfrog Group, an independent national watchdog organization, assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D," or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on more than 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as procedures that hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program based exclusively on hospital prevention of medical errors and harm to patients. The grading system is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

This is the fourth consecutive "A" rating for Upper Valley Medical Center. Miami Valley Hospital South and Miami Valley Hospital North received a "B" grade.



CompuNet Promotes Access to Health Care for Ohioans

CompuNet is proud to announce that it has become a Platinum Corporate Sponsor of the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers (OACHC). OACHC is a non-profit organization dedicated to advocating for Community Health Centers in Ohio, promoting their value to elected and appointed officials at the state and federal levels.

OACHC advocacy efforts are focused on ensuring that community health centers in Ohio have the resources they need to provide quality health care to all Ohioans, regardless of their income or insurance status. The organization works closely with Ohio's congressional delegation, the governor's administration, and government agencies to provide input on legislation and policies that affect community health centers in the state.

CompuNet's sponsorship of OACHC demonstrates our commitment to supporting the health care industry in Ohio. Our partnership with OACHC helps to ensure that Community Health Centers in Ohio have the resources they need to provide access to high-quality care to patients who need it most.

CompuNet Sponsors OHCA to Support Long-term Care

CompuNet is now a sponsor of the Ohio Health Care Association (OHCA). The OHCA represents more than 1,300 long-term care providers and services to individuals with disabilities and skilled nursing care facilities in Ohio. Since its establishment in 1946, the OHCA has been dedicated to meeting the needs of Ohio's long-term care professionals, including more than 100,000 caregivers who work tirelessly to support and care for Ohio's vulnerable citizens.

CompuNet's sponsorship of the OHCA is a testament to its commitment to its mission of providing innovative

solutions to improve patient outcomes and streamline health care processes. Through its sponsorship, CompuNet will engage with the OHCA's membership and collaborate on initiatives that benefit Ohio's long-term care community. As the health care landscape evolves, partnerships like this will be critical in driving innovation and improving health care outcomes for all Ohioans.



Provider Praise

Premier Health patients submit thousands of comments each year acknowledging providers across our health system for delivering excellent care. Here is a random sampling of appreciation received in recent months.

Robert Kohut, MD: Very nice office staff, excellent nurse practitioner, very good communication. Dr Kohut was very thorough with his plan of treatment.

Anupama Kulkarni, MD is a top-notch doctor.

Christopher Lauricella, DO: I drive from Fairborn to Englewood for my annual wellness visit because of Dr. Lauricella and his staff. It's worth the time. His staff

is always timely about answering my emails, and I enjoy talking with them. Dr. Lauricella is just the best.

Robert Linn, DO, listens to me. That's huge and is five stars, in my opinion.

Sarah Liston, DO: Everything about my visit or visits to this facility has always been top-notch. Informative, easily understood directions and discussions; professional.

Grand Rounds Returning to Premier Health

By Lakmali Ranathunga, MD, medical director, Miami Valley Hospital



Grand Rounds is an essential educational event and long-standing tradition in the

health care industry. The event is designed to facilitate an environment of learning and growth among health care providers, and we are thrilled to bring it back in collaboration with Wright State University (WSU). During the pandemic, many health care events shifted to virtual platforms, but Grand Rounds is an event that is best experienced in person. We are excited to provide health care providers with the opportunity to attend the event in person. For providers working on other campuses, a Live TEAMS invite will allow virtual participation.

Our primary objective in bringing back Grand Rounds is to facilitate a learning environment. Health care providers need ongoing education and training to stay current on the latest medical advancements, treatments, and technologies. Grand Rounds offers an ideal platform for experts in the health care industry to share their knowledge

and expertise on various topics related to patient care, research, and innovation. By attending Grand Rounds, providers can gain valuable insights and knowledge to improve their clinical practice, patient care, and outcomes.

Another objective for resuming Grand Rounds is strengthening the collaboration between Wright State University (WSU) and Premier Health. The health care industry is constantly evolving, and it is essential for health care organizations to work together to deliver the best patient care. By collaborating with WSU, we can leverage their expertise and resources to enhance the quality of care we provide to our patients. Additionally, we hope to foster a collaborative culture of learning and growth among health care providers through this event.

Improving provider engagement is another critical objective of bringing back Grand Rounds. We believe in-person attendance will help providers engage with their peers, participate in interactive discussions, and learn from each other's experiences. We understand that the industry can be stressful, and attending Grand Rounds can

be a great way for providers to unwind and connect with their colleagues.

To ensure maximum participation, the event will take place quarterly on Thursdays at noon. This timing is convenient for providers to attend and will allow for flexibility in their schedules. Our goal is to move to monthly events in the future to offer more opportunities for learning and engagement. This event is for all providers across Premier Health and WSU, including physicians, APPs, and residents. We will provide lunch to all attendees for initial meetings and offer CME credits for both in-person and virtual attendees.

Our planning committee is working hard to select timely topics that are relevant and impactful. We are confident that the first session scheduled for June 8, will be engaging and informative. The session will cover *Candida auris*, an emerging infection that could be a global health threat, as well as updates on PCN allergy by Steven Burdette, MD. This session will cover the latest developments in these areas and provide attendees with valuable insights that they can apply to their clinical practice.

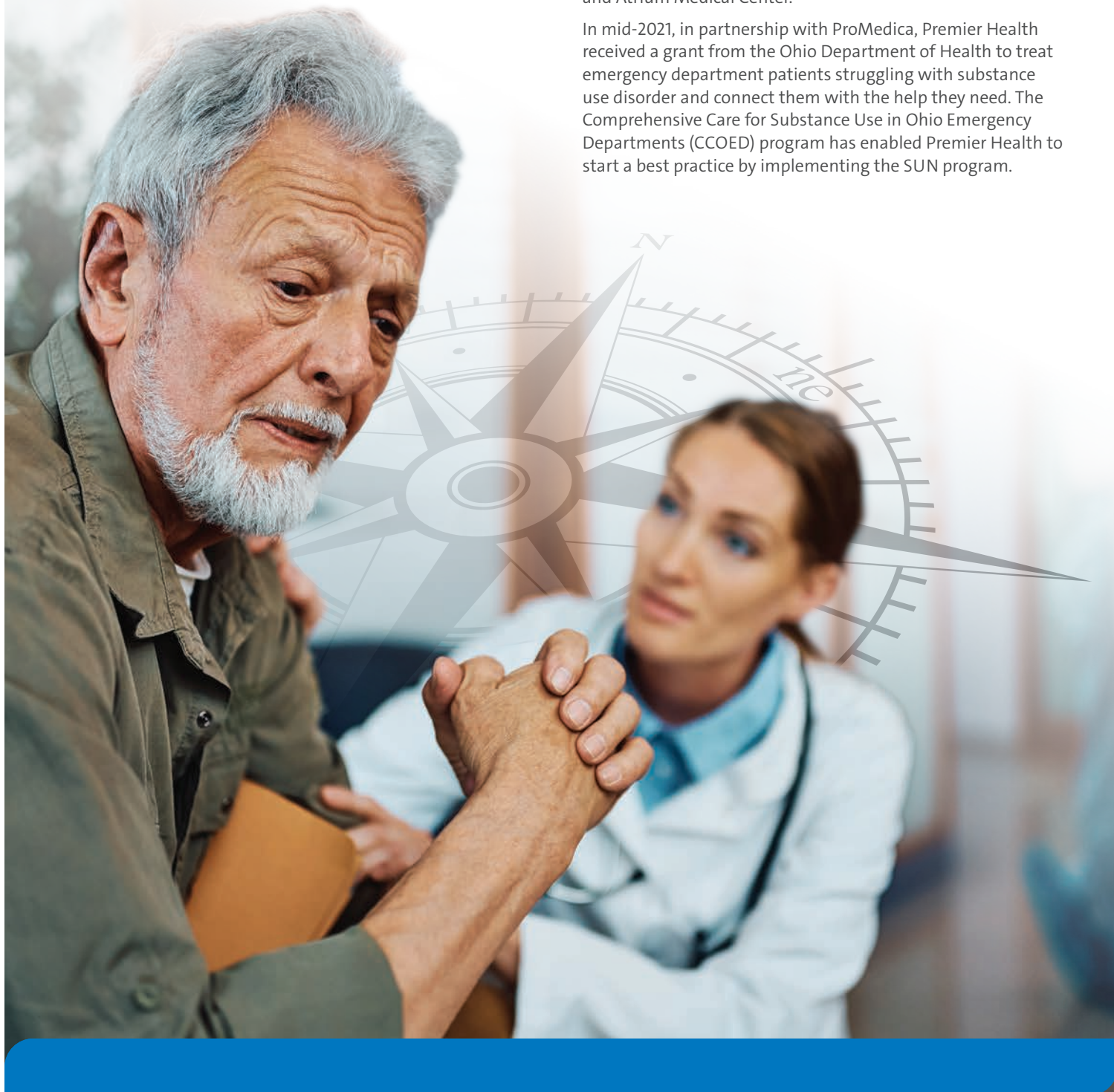


Emergency Departments Establish Substance Use Navigator Program

Premier Health is taking the next step in the fight against substance use disorder by establishing a Substance Use Navigator, or SUN (pronounced like the word “sun”), program. SUNs work with patients in the emergency department to complete chemical dependency assessments and provide linkages to care, including placement in treatment facilities and other wrap-around services. Premier Health is the first in the region to implement a SUN program. Substance use navigators must have experience with substance use disorder, nursing, or social work.

In addition, the most important characteristic that a SUN must demonstrate is a passion for serving the community and a strong sense of compassion for the patients they encounter. It is imperative that a SUN connects with a patient in ways that other emergency department professionals cannot. When fully staffed, Premier Health will have eight substance-use navigators. Currently, six SUNs are in place and cover Miami Valley Hospital North, Miami Valley Hospital, Atrium Medical Center, and Upper Valley Medical Center. Premier Health is looking to hire additional SUNs for Upper Valley Medical Center and Atrium Medical Center.

In mid-2021, in partnership with ProMedica, Premier Health received a grant from the Ohio Department of Health to treat emergency department patients struggling with substance use disorder and connect them with the help they need. The Comprehensive Care for Substance Use in Ohio Emergency Departments (CCOED) program has enabled Premier Health to start a best practice by implementing the SUN program.



Nursing Partnerships, Stroke Certification, Drive Smart Program

Atrium Medical Center

Dr. Percy D. Mitchell, Jr. Foyer in the Atrium Medical Center Behavioral Health Pavilion was recently unveiled. This newly named foyer honors Percy D. Mitchell, Jr., MD, who, for more than three decades, helped individuals overcome addiction, mental health challenges, and ultimately improve their quality of life. At the heart of this occasion is the establishment of the Dr. Percy D. Mitchell, Jr. Behavioral Health Endowment through Atrium Medical Center Foundation. This endowment will provide resources to ensure the community continues to have access to exceptional mental health counseling and support services. To make a gift to the Percy D. Mitchell Behavioral Health Endowment, please visit the site or call the Atrium Medical Center Foundation at (513) 974-5144.

To make a gift to the endowment, visit <https://AtriumEndowment.GiveSmart.com>

Miami University Regionals health care students can now earn a Bachelor of Nursing degree at no cost, thanks to a partnership with Atrium. The hospital has joined Miami Regionals' Work+ initiative. With Work+, students work part-time – earning a paycheck – while pursuing their degree. The employer pays their tuition. As a partner in the program, Atrium can



retain highly motivated employees in positions that experience high turnover, saving on attrition and hiring costs. Kim Hensley, chief operating officer and chief nursing officer at Atrium, participated in a “signing ceremony” commemorating the partnership.



Premier Health partnered with external organizations in April to highlight events and topics during Minority Health Month to improve positive health outcomes. Andre Harris, MD, chief medical officer at Atrium, discussed health disparities in communities of color with the Dayton Weekly News. Atrium also joined Middletown leaders and residents to tour and discuss three census tracts that are the focus of the city's Ohio Health Improvement Zone pilot project. This project was designed to foster health equity, address social determinants of health, and improve healthy behaviors through meaningful community engagement and cross-sectoral collaboration.

A partnership between Atrium's Level III Emergency Trauma Center and the Middletown Division of Police will expand Middletown City School District safety measures. The Barricade Bucket Project involves a simple but effective tool that can easily be added to any classroom for use in an emergency. The five-gallon buckets will include tourniquets, first-aid kits, flashlights, and snacks. Atrium employees raised more than \$2,000 to help kickstart the project. Donations, managed by the Atrium Medical Center Foundation, can be made here.

Donations, managed by the Atrium Medical Center Foundation, can be made at <https://Bucket.GiveSmart.com>.



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Atrium and other Premier Health employees picked up litter along roads near the hospital as part of Earth Day events in Middletown. Nearly 20 people were part of Atrium's efforts, collecting 30 trash bags of litter, dozens of needles safely disposed of in sharps containers, and recycled electronics.

Premier Health's CareFlight Air and Mobile Services took part in Drive Smart, a mock crash program that gives high school students a real-life look at the consequences of poor choices before getting behind the wheel of a car. In the Atrium market, Drive Smart was presented at Middletown High School.

Miami Valley Hospital

The third annual Miami Valley Hospital Practitioner Wellness 5K/10K Run/Walk was held at Island MetroPark. Proceeds from the race support Miami Valley Hospital Foundation's Practitioner Wellness Fund, which benefits provider health and wellness, collegiality, and focuses on building a better workplace.

The requirements for improvement for Primary Stroke Certification at Miami Valley Hospital South and Acute Stroke



Ready Certification at Miami Valley Hospital North are compliant. Both hospitals received certification letters for both programs from The Joint Commission.

CareFlight once again launched its Drive Smart program at high schools throughout the Dayton region. For more than 20 years, CareFlight has offered Drive Smart, a nationally recognized mock crash program that gives high school students a real-life look at the consequences of poor choices before getting behind the wheel of a car.

In partnership with the Dayton Weekly News for Minority Health Month, the Premier Health Mobile Clinic hosted outreach events at East End Community Center and Wesley Center. Premier Community Health provided free health screenings, health education, and physician referrals. Additionally, system clinicians provided weekly newspaper content addressing health issues affecting the African American community.

The 2023 annual University of Dayton and Miami Valley Hospital Healthcare Symposium was held on April 1 at the University of Dayton campus. During the event, recently retired system Chief



Medical Officer Dr. Marc Belcastro received the Healthcare Impact Award.

Miami Valley Hospital hosted 22 pre-nursing students from Miami Valley Career Technology Center every Friday in April. The students job shadowed several departments throughout the hospital.

Upper Valley Medical Center

In April, the Wound Care Center and Hyperbaric Services at UVMC was the recipient of the Center of Distinction award by Healogics, the nation's largest provider of advanced wound care services. This award recognizes UVMC for achieving

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SYSTEM NEWS *(continued)*

outstanding clinical outcomes for 12 consecutive months, including a patient satisfaction rate higher than 92 percent.

The UVMC Foundation hosted a Donors Appreciation Reception on April 18. The reception included tours of the Special Care Nursery renovation completed earlier this year.

Scott Kanagy, DO, chief medical officer, UVMC, was joined by Ashley Heitbrink, stroke program manager at UVMC, for local radio morning show interviews on April 24, to discuss National Stroke Awareness Month topics.

UVMC participated in the annual Edison State Community College Health Fair on April 13. UVMC advanced practice nurses provided blood pressure screenings, chronic disease counseling, oncology displays/information, and informational booths.

In other community engagement, Al-Mouthanna Rajab, MD, anesthesiologist, and Sara Finkes, clinical nurse at UVMC, shared career education information with students at Troy Junior High School. Also, UVMC leaders attended the annual Troy State of the City luncheon hosted by the Troy Chamber of Commerce and the City of Troy on April 20.

The UVMC Laboratory and Patient Service Center team was recognized with the Department of the Quarter honor for the spring quarter. This employee recognition is designed to highlight outstanding quality service and to educate fellow



teams about the scope of work performed by the recipient department.

Premier Physician Network

PPN New Provider Orientation welcomed six new teammates on April 19. Please say hello to (L-R): Pradip Vyas, MD, Premier Health Primary Care – Stanfield; Maryanna Catrine, PA-C, Premier Orthopedics – Breiel; Savannah Hooper, PA-C, SureCare Medical Center; Heidi Reynolds, MD, Liberty Family Medicine; Kay Stewart, CNP, Premier Health Advanced Critical Care – MVS; and Tayler Young, FNP, Upper Valley Family Medicine -Piqua.

Dayton Magazine's list of 2023 Dayton's Best Docs was recently published, and PPN physicians once again took top spots in many medical categories. In fact, 34

PPN physicians were named by readers as the best doctor in Dayton for 41 different medical categories! Congratulations to all our PPN winning doctors and countless others nominated for this list.

On Tuesday, April 25, PPN held a ribbon cutting and community open house for our new medical office building in Xenia at 2066 W. Main St. The 15,000-square-foot building is now home to Premier Health Primary Care – Xenia with Shirelle Applin, MD; Latha Venkatesh, MD; Bryan Schinaman, PA-c; and Jessica Darnell, CNP. The building also includes Premier OB/GYN Greene County with Katherine Lin, MD, and Kevin Edwards, MD. CompuNet Clinical Laboratories will provide lab services at this location as well.



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