

COOK COUNTY ICU 30 YEARS OF UNFORGETTABLE PATIENT Printable PDF

Cook County ICU 30 Years of Unforgettable Patients

The Cook County ICU has been a cornerstone of life-saving care for over three decades, witnessing countless stories of resilience, hope, and recovery. Among these, some patients' journeys stand out as truly unforgettable, reflecting the ICU's dedication to excellence and compassionate care. In this article, we explore the history, the remarkable patient stories, advancements in ICU care at Cook County, and how the unit continues to innovate to serve its community better.

History and Evolution of Cook County ICU

Founding and Early Years

- Established over 30 years ago as part of Cook County Hospital's mission to provide comprehensive healthcare.
- Initially staffed with a team of dedicated physicians, nurses, and support staff committed to critical care.
- Early focus on trauma, infectious diseases, and post-surgical recovery.

Growth and Modernization

- Expansion of ICU beds and resources to meet increasing patient needs.
- Adoption of cutting-edge technology such as advanced ventilators, monitoring systems, and electronic health records.
- Implementation of multidisciplinary approaches, integrating specialists in cardiology, neurology, infectious disease, and more.

Unforgettable Patient Stories from Cook County ICU

The true heart of any ICU lies in its patients' stories. Over the years, many individuals have faced life-threatening situations, only to emerge stronger thanks to exceptional care. Below are some inspiring examples.

1. The Young Trauma Survivor

- A 16-year-old involved in a severe vehicular accident.
- Suffered multiple fractures, traumatic brain injury, and internal bleeding.
- Received immediate surgical intervention, followed by weeks of intensive monitoring and rehabilitation.
- Today, he's an active high school athlete, grateful for the dedicated team that saved his life.

2. The Infectious Disease Warrior

- A middle-aged woman diagnosed with a complex bacterial infection resistant to antibiotics.
- Required advanced ICU interventions, including ECMO (extracorporeal membrane oxygenation).
- Her recovery marked a significant milestone in treating resistant infections.
- She now advocates for antibiotic stewardship and awareness.

3. The Elderly Heart Failure Patient

- An 80-year-old man with congestive heart failure facing imminent decline.
- Received customized cardiac management and palliative care when necessary.
- His case underscored the importance of personalized medicine and compassionate end-of-life care.
- He celebrated his 85th birthday, grateful for the quality of life restored.

Key Factors Contributing to ICU Success at Cook County

The ICU's ability to deliver unforgettable patient outcomes stems from several core strengths.

1. Skilled and Dedicated Medical Team

- Multidisciplinary teams including intensivists, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and social workers.
- Continuous training and certification to stay abreast of the latest practices.
- Compassionate approach that prioritizes patient dignity and comfort.

2. Advanced Technology and Equipment

- State-of-the-art ventilators and life-support systems.
- Real-time monitoring with sophisticated electronic health systems.

- Use of telemedicine to consult specialists remotely.

3. Evidence-Based Protocols

- Implementation of the latest clinical guidelines for sepsis, trauma, stroke, and other critical conditions.
- Regular audits and quality improvement initiatives.
- Personalized treatment plans tailored to individual patient needs.

4. Family and Community Engagement

- Family-centered care practices that involve loved ones in decision-making.
- Support services including counseling and social work.
- Community outreach programs to educate about critical health issues.

Innovations and Future Directions in Cook County ICU

The ICU at Cook County continues to evolve, integrating new technologies and approaches to improve patient outcomes.

1. Incorporating Artificial Intelligence and Data Analytics

- Using AI algorithms to predict patient deterioration and optimize interventions.
- Data analytics for continuous quality improvement.

2. Expanding Rehabilitation and Post-ICU Care

- Focus on holistic recovery, including physical, mental, and emotional health.
- Collaboration with outpatient rehab centers and mental health services.

3. Enhancing Global and Tele-ICU Capabilities

- Remote monitoring and consultation to extend expert care to underserved areas.
- Participation in national and international critical care research.

Conclusion: Celebrating 30 Years of Compassionate Care

The journey of Cook County ICU over the past 30 years is marked by hundreds of unforgettable patient stories, groundbreaking medical advancements, and an unwavering commitment to saving lives. As it looks toward the future, the ICU continues to innovate, ensuring that each patient receives the highest standard of care, dignity, and hope. The legacy of these 30 years is a testament to the dedication of its staff and the resilience of the patients they serve, fostering a community built on trust, compassion, and excellence in critical care.

Cook County ICU 30 Years of Unforgettable Patients: A Deep Dive into Resilience, Innovation, and Compassion

The Cook County ICU 30 years of unforgettable patients stands as a testament to the incredible journeys of healing, resilience, and medical innovation that have defined one of Chicago's most vital healthcare units. Over three decades, countless lives have intersected with the intensive care unit (ICU), leaving behind stories that inspire healthcare professionals and families alike. This article explores the evolution of the ICU at Cook County, highlights memorable patient stories, and examines the factors that have contributed to its reputation as a place where miracles happen daily.

The Evolution of Cook County ICU: A Historical Perspective

A Foundation Built on Compassion and Innovation

Cook County Hospital, established in the 19th century, has long been a cornerstone of public healthcare in Chicago. The ICU, as a specialized unit, emerged in response to the growing need for intensive monitoring and specialized care for critically ill patients. Over the past 30 years, the ICU has evolved from rudimentary facilities to a state-of-the-art center equipped with cutting-edge technology.

Key Milestones in ICU Development

- Early 1990s: Introduction of advanced ventilator technology and monitoring systems.
- 2000s: Implementation of electronic health records (EHR) and real-time data tracking.
- 2010s: Integration of telemedicine and remote consultation capabilities.
- Recent Years: Adoption of AI-driven analytics for patient care optimization.

This evolution reflects Cook County's commitment to providing high-quality care, adapting to medical advancements, and prioritizing patient-centered approaches.

Unforgettable Patients of the Cook County ICU: Stories of Courage and Triumph

The ICU's history is punctuated by stories that exemplify human resilience and medical ingenuity.

While respecting patient confidentiality, here are thematic summaries of some of the most unforgettable patient journeys:

- The Young Trauma Survivor Who Defied Odds

A teenage accident victim with severe traumatic brain injury arrived unconscious. Through aggressive neurocritical care, multidisciplinary collaboration, and family support, the patient gradually regained consciousness. Their recovery not only amazed the medical team but also underscored the importance of holistic care.

- The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Frontline Heroes

During the height of the COVID-19 crisis, Cook County ICU became a battleground against an invisible enemy. Patients with severe respiratory failure required ventilators, ECMO support, and experimental therapies. The staff's dedication and adaptability saved countless lives, and some patients' stories of recovery became symbols of hope.

- The Chronic Disease Warrior

Patients with complex chronic conditions, such as advanced heart failure or multi-organ failure, often face multiple ICU admissions. One such patient, battling end-stage heart failure, benefited from innovative treatments like ventricular assist devices, ultimately leading to a successful transplant. Their journey highlights the vital role of technological innovation in prolonging and improving quality of life.

Core Elements Contributing to the ICU's Legacy

Several factors have contributed to making the Cook County ICU a place of unforgettable patient experiences:

- Multidisciplinary Team Approach

- Critical care physicians
- Nurses with specialized training
- Respiratory therapists
- Pharmacists

- Social workers and chaplains

By working collaboratively, these professionals ensure comprehensive patient care that addresses physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

- Cutting-Edge Technology and Facilities

- Advanced life support systems
- Real-time monitoring and data analytics
- Tele-ICU capabilities
- AI-driven decision support tools

These innovations enable early detection of complications and personalized treatment plans.

- Commitment to Education and Research

Cook County's ICU serves as a training ground for medical residents and fellows, fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation. The unit's involvement in clinical research has contributed to evidence-based practices that benefit patients worldwide.

- Emphasis on Family and Patient-Centered Care

Recognizing the importance of family support, the ICU has implemented policies to involve loved ones in care decisions and provide emotional support, which has been shown to improve outcomes.

Challenges and Resilience: Navigating 30 Years of Critical Care

Over three decades, the ICU has faced numerous challenges:

- Emergence of new infectious diseases (e.g., H1N1, COVID-19)
- Technological shifts requiring rapid adaptation
- Resource limitations inherent to a public hospital
- Emotional toll on staff and families

Despite these hurdles, the ICU's resilience has been rooted in a culture of continuous improvement and unwavering dedication.

Lessons Learned and Future Directions

Key Lessons from 30 Years of ICU Practice

- The importance of adaptability in the face of evolving medical landscapes.
- The value of compassionate communication with patients and families.
- The necessity of investing in staff training and wellbeing.
- The potential of technology to revolutionize patient outcomes.

Future Innovations on the Horizon

- Incorporation of machine learning algorithms for predictive analytics.
- Expansion of tele-ICU services to rural and underserved areas.
- Use of virtual reality for staff training and patient rehabilitation.
- Personalized medicine approaches tailored to genetic profiles.

Celebrating the Human Spirit: The Heart of Cook County ICU

While medical advances and technology have transformed ICU care, at its core, the Cook County ICU 30 years of unforgettable patients story is about human resilience. From the youngest trauma victims to the elderly battling chronic illnesses, each patient's journey underscores the profound impact of compassionate, innovative care.

As Cook County continues to evolve, its commitment remains steadfast: to serve the community with dignity, adapt to new challenges, and honor the stories of those who have touched its halls. The memories of these unforgettable patients inspire healthcare providers to push boundaries and reaffirm their dedication to saving lives.

Final Thoughts

The legacy of the Cook County ICU over the past 30 years is a powerful narrative of hope, resilience, and relentless pursuit of excellence. Each patient story contributes to a collective history of human strength and medical progress. As we look to the future, the lessons learned and innovations adopted will undoubtedly continue to make Cook County a beacon of critical care excellence, ensuring that many more unforgettable patient stories will be written in the years to come.

Question What makes the Cook County ICU's 30-year patient story so memorable? The patient's remarkable recovery and the compassionate care provided over three decades have made

their story an inspiring example of dedication and medical excellence at Cook County ICU. How has the Cook County ICU evolved over the past 30 years in caring for long-term patients? The ICU has implemented advanced technology, specialized staff training, and personalized care plans to enhance long-term patient outcomes, making their 30-year journey possible. What role has patient-family engagement played in the unforgettable 30-year ICU story? Active family involvement has been crucial, providing emotional support and continuity of care, which contributed significantly to the patient's resilience and recovery over the decades. Are there any notable medical innovations introduced in the Cook County ICU during this 30-year period? Yes, the ICU adopted numerous innovations such as advanced ventilator management, electronic health records, and minimally invasive procedures that improved long-term patient care. What challenges did the ICU face in maintaining care for a patient over 30 years? Challenges included managing chronic conditions, preventing infections, adapting to technological changes, and ensuring quality of life over an extended period. How does the Cook County ICU recognize and honor patients with such long-term stories? The ICU holds commemorative events, shares patient stories publicly, and recognizes staff contributions, celebrating milestones like the 30-year journey. What impact has the patient's story had on staff at Cook County ICU? It has inspired staff by exemplifying perseverance, compassion, and the profound impact of dedicated healthcare, motivating continuous improvement. What lessons can other ICUs learn from the 30-year patient story at Cook County? Key lessons include the importance of personalized care, interdisciplinary teamwork, and resilience in overcoming long-term critical illness. How has this patient's journey influenced policies or practices at Cook County ICU? Their story has led to the development of long-term care protocols, enhanced patient-centered approaches, and increased focus on holistic recovery strategies. What are the future plans to commemorate the 30-year milestone of the patient's care at Cook County ICU? Plans include publishing a detailed case study, hosting community events, and creating educational materials to highlight the importance of long-term critical care.

Related keywords: Cook County ICU, critical care, long-term ICU patients, patient stories, healthcare milestones, intensive care unit, medical achievements, patient recovery, hospital history, healthcare professionals

Unforgettable Journey Short Story

Unforgettable Journey Short Story

An unforgettable journey is often more than just a physical movement from one place to another; it is an emotional and transformative experience that leaves an indelible mark on our memories. Such journeys can be spontaneous adventures, planned explorations, or life-changing voyages that challenge our perceptions, push our boundaries, and introduce us to new cultures, ideas, and

ourselves. In this article, we delve into the elements that make a journey unforgettable, explore a compelling short story that captures the essence of such an experience, and highlight the lessons learned from embarking on these extraordinary paths.

The Essence of an Unforgettable Journey

What Makes a Journey Unforgettable?

A journey becomes unforgettable when it encompasses certain key elements that evoke strong emotions and lasting impressions. These include:

- Unexpected Encounters: Meeting new people or animals that change your perspective.
- Overcoming Challenges: Facing obstacles that test your resilience.
- Cultural Immersion: Experiencing traditions, foods, and customs different from your own.
- Personal Growth: Gaining insights about yourself and the world.
- Memorable Settings: Visiting breathtaking landscapes or unique locations.
- Emotional Moments: Moments of joy, awe, or introspection.

The Power of Storytelling in Journeys

Stories about journeys serve as powerful tools to connect, inspire, and educate. They encapsulate the raw emotions, vivid sights, and pivotal moments that define our adventures. Short stories, in particular, distill complex experiences into concise narratives that resonate deeply with readers, allowing them to relive the journey vicariously.

Crafting an Unforgettable Short Story: Elements and Structure

Key Components of an Engaging Short Journey Story

To craft a compelling short story about an unforgettable journey, consider the following components:

- Introduction: Set the scene, introduce the protagonist, and hint at the journey's significance.
- Conflict or Challenge: Present obstacles or conflicts that drive the story forward.
- Climax: The pivotal moment where the protagonist faces the core challenge.
- Resolution: How the journey concludes and what lessons are learned.
- Emotional Closure: A reflection or insight that underscores the story's impact.

Tips for Writing a Memorable Journey Short Story

- Use vivid sensory details to immerse readers.
- Incorporate authentic emotions and reactions.
- Include a clear theme or message.
- Keep the narrative concise but meaningful.
- Use dialogue sparingly but effectively to reveal character.

Example: An Unforgettable Journey ? Short Story

Setting the Scene

Emma, a young woman exhausted by the monotony of her city life, decided to escape her routine for a weekend adventure into the mountains. She yearned for a break from screens, deadlines, and familiar surroundings. Armed with a backpack, a camera, and a sense of curiosity, she set out early Saturday morning.

The Beginning of the Journey

As Emma hiked up the trail, she was greeted by the scent of pine and the soothing sounds of chirping birds. The path was steep but surrounded by breathtaking views?crystal-clear lakes, wildflowers in bloom, and towering peaks piercing the sky. She felt a sense of freedom she hadn't experienced in years.

Facing Challenges

Midway through her hike, Emma faced an unexpected obstacle: a sudden storm rolled in, drenching her and obscuring the trail. Panic threatened to overwhelm her as visibility dropped and the thunder rumbled ominously. She remembered her training from outdoor safety tips and took refuge under a large overhang, feeling vulnerable yet determined.

A Moment of Reflection

While waiting for the storm to pass, Emma took out her camera and began capturing the storm?s raw power?the flashes of lightning illuminating the dark sky, the raindrops dancing on leaves. This moment of stillness amidst chaos prompted her to reflect on her life?how she had been rushing through days without truly appreciating them.

The Climax

Once the storm subsided, Emma resumed her hike, feeling invigorated. She reached a summit just as the clouds parted, revealing a panoramic view of the valley below. Standing there alone, she felt a profound connection to nature and a renewed sense of purpose. The adversity she faced had

transformed her perspective, making her realize the importance of embracing the unpredictable.

The Return and Lessons Learned

On her way back, Emma felt lighter, more grateful, and more aware of her surroundings. The journey had challenged her physically and emotionally, but it had also awakened her inner strength and appreciation for life's fleeting moments. She returned home not just with photographs but with a renewed spirit and the knowledge that some journeys are unforgettable because of the lessons they teach us.

Lessons from Unforgettable Journeys

Personal Growth and Self-Discovery

Unforgettable journeys often serve as catalysts for personal development. They teach resilience, patience, adaptability, and self-reliance. Traveling into unknown territories pushes individuals out of their comfort zones and encourages introspection.

Building Connections

Meeting new people and experiencing different cultures fosters empathy and understanding. These connections often become the most cherished memories of a journey.

Appreciating the Present

Experiences that challenge us help cultivate mindfulness and gratitude for the present moment, reminding us of the transient beauty of life.

How to Create Your Own Unforgettable Journey

If you're inspired to embark on your own memorable adventure, consider the following steps:

- **Set Intentions:** Know what you hope to gain?peace, excitement, self-awareness.
- **Choose a Destination:** Pick a place that excites or challenges you.
- **Prepare Mentally and Physically:** Research, pack appropriately, and cultivate an open mind.
- **Embrace Spontaneity:** Be flexible and open to unexpected experiences.
- **Reflect:** Take time to savor moments and learn from them.

Conclusion

An unforgettable journey is a tapestry woven with adventure, challenge, emotion, and growth. Whether captured in a short story or experienced firsthand, these journeys remind us of the richness of life and our capacity for resilience and discovery. By embracing the unknown and remaining open to new experiences, everyone has the potential to create their own unforgettable stories—stories that stay with us long after the journey ends, shaping who we are and how we see the world.

Unforgettable Journey Short Story: An Exploration of Adventure, Growth, and Reflection

In the realm of literature and storytelling, few themes resonate as profoundly as the concept of an unforgettable journey. These narratives, whether fictional or autobiographical, encapsulate the essence of human exploration—both outward and inward. An unforgettable journey short story is more than just a tale of travel; it is a narrative that captures transformative experiences, emotional upheavals, and moments of epiphany that leave an indelible mark on the protagonist and the reader alike. Such stories serve as mirrors reflecting our own desires for discovery and understanding, making them timeless and universally compelling.

Defining the Unforgettable Journey Short Story

An unforgettable journey short story is characterized by its ability to encapsulate a profound experience within a condensed narrative. Unlike lengthy novels or memoirs, short stories focus on pivotal moments that define or alter a character's worldview. The journey, in this context, can be literal—travelling across countries or terrains—or metaphorical, representing personal growth, emotional breakthroughs, or spiritual awakening.

Key elements of an unforgettable journey short story include:

- Concise yet vivid storytelling: The brevity demands precision, vivid imagery, and impactful language.
- Transformative experiences: The journey leads to a significant change or realization.
- Emotional depth: It evokes feelings of awe, fear, joy, or introspection.
- Universal themes: Such stories often explore themes like courage, identity, loss, hope, and resilience.

These stories are crafted to leave a lasting impression, illustrating that sometimes, a short narrative can be more powerful than an elaborate saga.

The Structure of an Unforgettable Journey Short Story

Creating an effective short story about an unforgettable journey requires a thoughtful structure that guides the reader through the experience seamlessly. Here is a typical framework:

- Introduction: Setting the Stage

- Establish the protagonist's initial state—emotionally, physically, or psychologically.
- Introduce the context—where they are, what motivates the journey.
- Present the inciting incident—an event or realization that propels the journey.

- The Journey Begins

- Describe the physical or metaphorical journey.
- Highlight obstacles, challenges, or moments of doubt.
- Use sensory details to immerse the reader in the environment.

- Climax: The Turning Point

- The moment of greatest tension or revelation.
- Often involves a critical decision, confrontation, or insight.
- The emotional or spiritual peak of the story.

- Resolution: Reflection and Change

- The aftermath of the climax.
- How the journey has transformed the protagonist.
- A closing reflection that encapsulates the story's theme.

This structure ensures the story remains focused, impactful, and emotionally resonant within a limited word count.

Themes and Motifs in Unforgettable Journey Stories

Unforgettable journey stories often revolve around recurring themes that resonate across cultures and histories. Recognizing these themes can deepen appreciation and understanding of such narratives.

- Self-Discovery and Identity

Many stories depict characters venturing into unknown territories?be it foreign lands or unfamiliar emotional landscapes?to find themselves. For example, a young traveler might confront their fears and insecurities, emerging with a stronger sense of identity.

- Resilience and Courage

Journeys are frequently fraught with adversity. Tales of overcoming physical hardships?such as crossing treacherous terrains?or emotional struggles exemplify human resilience.

- Transformation and Growth

The core of many stories lies in transformation?characters leaving behind old selves or beliefs. The journey acts as a catalyst for change, often culminating in a new perspective or purpose.

- Nature and the Unknown

The natural environment often plays a dual role?being both a challenge and a source of inspiration. Encounters with nature often symbolize the vastness of life and the universe.

- Loss and Redemption

Some stories explore themes of loss?missing loved ones, lost innocence?and the subsequent path toward redemption or acceptance.

Crafting an Effective Unforgettable Journey Short Story

To craft a story that leaves a lasting impression, writers should pay attention to several key elements:

- Vivid Imagery and Sensory Details

Engage the reader?s senses to bring scenes to life. Describe sights, sounds, smells, textures, and tastes vividly.

Example: "The salty breeze whipped through her hair as she stepped onto the sandy shore, the horizon ablaze with the fiery hues of sunset."

- Authentic Characters and Emotions

Create relatable characters whose motives and feelings are genuine. Emotional authenticity fosters a deeper connection.

- Symbolism and Motifs

Use symbols—such as a recurring object, color, or motif—to reinforce themes. For instance, a broken compass might symbolize lost direction or inner turmoil.

- Concise Language with Impact

Choose words carefully to maximize emotional resonance without verbosity. Every sentence should serve a purpose.

- A Satisfying Resolution

Endings should be meaningful, whether they offer closure or provoke lingering questions that encourage reflection.

Examples of Unforgettable Journey Short Stories

While many stories exemplify the theme, a few stand out as quintessential examples:

- "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway: A story of resilience and perseverance as an old fisherman battles the sea and a giant marlin.

- "Harrison Bergeron" by Kurt Vonnegut: A metaphorical journey through societal constraints and the desire for individuality.

- "A Walk in the Woods" by Bill Bryson: An autobiographical account of hiking the Appalachian Trail, blending humor with introspection.

- "The Journey" by Colleen Patrick-Goudreau: A metaphorical journey exploring personal growth and overcoming doubts.

The Impact of Unforgettable Journey Stories on Readers

Stories of unforgettable journeys inspire, motivate, and foster empathy. They remind us that journeys—whether physical or internal—are fundamental to the human experience. Such stories:

- Encourage us to step outside our comfort zones.
- Offer insights into resilience and perseverance.
- Help us understand diverse perspectives and cultures.
- Inspire personal reflection and growth.

In a world increasingly interconnected yet often divided, these stories serve as bridges, fostering understanding through shared experiences.

Conclusion: The Power of Short Stories in Capturing Life's Journeys

An unforgettable journey short story exemplifies the adage that less is more. Through meticulous craft, vivid imagery, and emotional depth, these stories distill the essence of human exploration into a compact narrative that remains etched in memory. Whether recounting literal travels across distant lands or metaphorical voyages within the soul, such stories encapsulate the transformative power of journeys. They remind us that the most profound adventures often occur not just in distant places, but within ourselves.

In the end, the beauty of an unforgettable journey story lies in its universality. It beckons each reader to reflect on their own paths, challenges, and growth—affirming that every journey, no matter how brief, holds the potential for profound change.

Question What makes a short story about an unforgettable journey stand out? A compelling story about an unforgettable journey stands out through vivid descriptions, emotional depth, relatable characters, and a transformative experience that leaves a lasting impact on the reader. **Answer** How can I create a memorable setting in my short story about a journey? Use detailed sensory descriptions, unique locations, and atmospheric elements to immerse readers in the environment, making the setting an integral part of the story's emotional resonance. What are common themes explored in short stories about unforgettable journeys? Common themes include self-discovery, overcoming obstacles, cultural encounters, personal growth, and the transformative power of travel and new experiences. How can I effectively develop characters in a short story about a journey? Focus on key traits, motivations, and reactions that evolve throughout the journey. Showing characters' internal struggles and transformations adds depth and authenticity to their development. What narrative techniques are effective in telling an unforgettable journey story? Techniques like vivid imagery, first-person narration, flashbacks, and symbolic elements can enhance storytelling by creating emotional engagement and emphasizing the journey's significance.

How important is the resolution in a short story about an unforgettable journey? A meaningful resolution ties together the story's themes, highlights character growth, and leaves the reader with a sense of closure or reflection on the journey's impact. Can a short story about an unforgettable journey include a twist ending? Yes, incorporating a twist can surprise readers and deepen the story's message, making the journey even more memorable and thought-provoking. What are some tips for writing an emotionally impactful short story about a journey? Use relatable characters, detailed descriptions, and genuine emotions. Show personal struggles and triumphs, and focus on sensory experiences to evoke empathy and connection with the reader.

Related keywords: adventure, travel, memoir, exploration, travelogue, life's journey, personal growth, travel experience, life story, memorable trip

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