



**Monday, September 24, 2012**

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## **ACL Administrator Greenlee Announces Adoption of the United Nation's Economic Commission on Europe Ministerial Declaration**

Health and Human Services (HHS) Administrator for the Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging, Kathy Greenlee, who served as the Head of the U.S. Delegation, announced the adoption of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Ministerial Declaration, "Ensuring A Society for all Ages: Promoting Quality of Life and Active Ageing." This declaration was negotiated and agreed to by the assembly of member countries at the 2012 UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing held in Vienna, Austria, September 19-20, 2012.

The declaration reaffirms the commitments made in the Ministerial Declarations in Berlin in 2002 and in Leon, Spain in 2007 to implement the Regional Implementation Strategy of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) adopted at the Madrid World Assembly on Ageing.

Assistant Secretary Greenlee provided the U.S. statement during the ministerial session of the closing day of the assembly. In her statement, she indicated that under the leadership of President Obama, the U.S. reaffirms its commitment to the themes addressed by the MIPAA. Ms. Greenlee reported that ten years following the adoption of the MIPAA, the U.S. has continued to make significant progress toward addressing the objectives of MIPAA. Of

particular note, are the successful reforms of the health care system made possible by the Affordable Care Act.

In addition, Greenlee highlighted the importance of focusing on elder abuse, neglect and exploitation as a means of protecting vulnerable seniors and assisting them to maintain health and financial security; the goals of the National Alzheimer's Project Act to dedicate resources to research and services to address the issues faced by many older individuals and their families; and the creation of the Administration for Community Living within DHHS to further enhance community living opportunities for older individuals and people with disabilities. Further, Ms. Greenlee spoke about the wide diversity of people living in the U.S. and the importance of forums like those sponsored by the U.N. to enhance learning and to collaborate as we strive to address and to be sensitive to the cultural differences and uniqueness of our diverse populations.

For additional information on the conference and the final declaration agreed to by the member countries, visit <http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=30925>

For the Assistant Secretary's Ministerial Statement, visit [http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press\\_Room/Breaking\\_Story/2012/MinisterialStatement.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press_Room/Breaking_Story/2012/MinisterialStatement.pdf)

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### **Through the Affordable Care Act, Americans with Medicare Will Save \$5,000 through 2022**

*5.5 million seniors saved money on prescription drugs and 19 million got free preventive care in 2012*

Because of the health care law – the Affordable Care Act – the average person with traditional Medicare will save \$5,000 from 2010 to 2022, according to a report today from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. People with Medicare who have high prescription drug costs will save much more – more than \$18,000 – over the same period.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius also announced last Friday that, because of the health care law, more than 5.5 million seniors and people with disabilities saved nearly \$4.5 billion on prescription drugs since the law was enacted. Seniors in the Medicare prescription drug coverage gap known as the donut hole have saved an average of \$641 in the first eight months of 2012 alone. This includes \$195 million in savings on prescriptions for diabetes, over \$140 million on drugs to lower cholesterol and blood pressure, and \$75 million on cancer drugs so far this year. Also in the first eight months of 2012, more than 19 million people with original Medicare received at least one preventive service at no cost to them.

To read more, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/09/20120921a.html>

For state-by-state information on savings in the donut hole, please visit:

<http://downloads.cms.gov/files/Summary-Chart-2010-2012.pdf>

For state-by-state information on utilization of free preventive services, please

visit: <http://downloads.cms.gov/files/preventive-services-data.pdf>

For more information on the estimate that the average Medicare beneficiary will save \$5,000 from 2010 to 2022 as a result of the health care law, please visit:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/health/reports/2012/beneficiarysavings/ib.shtml>

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### **Medicare Advantage Remains Strong**

Enrollment in the Medicare Advantage (MA) program is projected to increase by 11 percent in the next year and premiums will remain steady, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced last week.

Since the Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010, Medicare Advantage premiums have fallen by 10 percent and enrollment has risen by 28 percent.

For the third year in a row, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) used authority provided by the Affordable Care Act to protect beneficiaries from significant increases in costs or cuts in benefits. Access to supplemental benefits remains steady and beneficiaries' average out-of-pocket spending remains constant.

To read more, go to

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/09/20120919a.html>

The Annual Open Enrollment Period for health and drug plans begins on October 15 and ends December 7. Each year plans change what they cost and what they cover. To find helpful Medicare tools and information, and compare the cost or benefits of 2013 Medicare health plans in your area, please visit:

<http://www.cms.gov/center/openenrollment.asp>

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### **New Grants Help People with Medicare Stay Healthy and Independent**

Administrator of the Administration for Community Living and Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee announced last week more than \$8.5

million for states to provide education and tools to help older adults and adults with disabilities, including those with Medicare, better manage their chronic conditions. The 22 states receiving the awards will use these resources to provide 87,000 individuals with more information about steps they can take to improve their health.

The funding will support a variety of programs, all evidence-based and licensed from the Stanford University Patient Education Research Center. The Stanford programs emphasize the individual's role in managing their health and improving their quality of life. The grants will also support evidence-based self-management programs for people with diabetes, arthritis, HIV/AIDS, and chronic pain, including internet-based courses and programs specifically developed for Spanish-speaking adults with chronic conditions.

To learn more about the Stanford University Chronic Disease Self-Management Program, go to <http://patienteducation.stanford.edu/programs/>

For more information, including the list of the 22 states awarded grants, go to <http://www.hhs.gov/acl/2012/09/20/new-grants-help-people-with-medicare/>

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### **HHS Enlists Seniors in the Fight Against Health Care Fraud**

*Senior Medicare Patrol programs in 53 states and territories awarded funding*

Last week the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Community Living awarded new resources to support Senior Medicare Patrol programs across the nation as they continue their work uncovering Medicare fraud and waste. This program is part of President Obama's work to fight Medicare fraud and equip Medicare beneficiaries with the tools to protect themselves—and help the government prosecute fraudsters and uncover billing mistakes.

The Senior Medicare Patrol programs organize volunteers who work in their communities to educate Medicare beneficiaries, family members, and caregivers about the importance of reviewing their Medicare notices to identify errors and potentially fraudulent activity. Local Senior Medicare Patrol offices provide assistance when such issues are identified, so that mistakes are corrected and suspected fraud referred to the appropriate authorities. Since 1997, more than 1.5 million seniors and their caregivers have contacted the Senior Medicare Patrol to ask questions or report potential fraud. According to the HHS Office of the Inspector General, the program has saved the federal government over \$100 million.

To read the complete announcement, including a list of the awards announced, visit:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoA\\_programs/Elder\\_Rights/SMP/doc/SMP\\_Grants\\_Awards\\_FY2012.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoA_programs/Elder_Rights/SMP/doc/SMP_Grants_Awards_FY2012.pdf)

For more information about Senior Medicare Patrol program, visit:  
[http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/Elder\\_Rights/SMP/index.aspx](http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/SMP/index.aspx)

To find a Senior Medicare Patrol office near you, use the SMP Locator:  
[http://www.smpresource.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=SMP\\_Locator1](http://www.smpresource.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=SMP_Locator1)

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## **Stay Informed**

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### **Webinar on *Successful Beneficiary Outreach Strategies***

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Medicaid-CHIP State Dental Association (MSDA) are pleased to invite you to the “CMS Learning Lab: Improving Oral Health Through Access,” a quarterly series of webinars to provide technical assistance related to the CMS Oral Health Initiative.

The second webinar in the series is *Successful Beneficiary Outreach Strategies*

Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2012  
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (EDT)

The video for the webinar may be accessed by using this link:  
<https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/cmslearninglab/>

The audio can be accessed through 877-267-1577; Meeting ID: 1420.

The audio of the webinar will be recorded.

Webinar Objectives:

- Gain knowledge of the difference between “outreach” and “informing” in the Medicaid context and the legal requirements underlying the “informing” obligation in Medicaid;
- Increase knowledge of the advantages of using targeted outreach strategies, and to be able to name at least three sources of data that can be used to create targeted outreach strategies; and
- Gain knowledge of the beneficiary outreach methods through which four States have achieved higher levels of utilization of dental services by enrolled children and how those methods could be implemented in other States.

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## **National Forum on Disability Issues**

This event, to be held on Columbus, Ohio, is co-sponsored by a number of aging and disability organizations. The forum will be the only national event to focus specifically on disability issues.

Date: Friday, September 28, 2012

Time: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

The moderator will be Frank Sesno, former CNN White House correspondent.

How to Participate:

- In person: The forum will be free and open to 500 individuals to attend in person.
- Online: The event will be streamed live on the web, and watch parties are being organized around the country. A recording will be made available afterward.
- Co-sponsor: Sponsorship is open to local and national organizations and individuals.

[Learn more about the forum](#)

[Register for the forum](#)

[Register for the webcast](#)

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## **Medicare Open Enrollment Webinar**

The annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period is October 15 – December 7, 2012. It is time for people with Medicare to compare plans and make sure they have the right health and prescription drug coverage.

This webinar is designed to provide you with an overview of the differences between the types of Medicare plans and what that means to people with Medicare, how to compare plans, important issues to consider in choosing a Plan, and where you can get more information or assistance on making a selection. Helpful information about the Annual Open Enrollment campaign, MA & Part D plan update, Medicare Advantage Landscape, Part D Benefit, and Medicare Plan finder October update will also be presented.

Date: Thursday, October 4, 2012  
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. EST

Please join both the Webinar and the Audio Call:

Webinar ID: <https://webinar.cms.hhs.gov/owebinar1004>

Call-in number: 1-877-267-1577 Meeting ID: 3358

Please email [Anne.Avery@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Anne.Avery@cms.hhs.gov) or [Janet.Miller2@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Janet.Miller2@cms.hhs.gov) if you have questions or suggestions.

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### **Symposium on *Better Lifetime Income Options for Retirement Security: How Do We Get There?***

The TIAA-CREF Institute, the AARP Public Policy Institute and the Urban Institute invite you to join them for a discussion of groundbreaking research on how consumers view guaranteed income options for their retirement savings and how they might make greater use of these options to improve their financial security.

Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2012  
Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 a.m. (Breakfast available 8:00 a.m.)  
Site: Room 430 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC

Seating is limited. Reserve your place NOW. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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### **Webinar Reminders**

*Webinar on It's All about Content: Using the Internet and Social Media to Reach and Inform Older Adults*

Join the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and IlluminAge to discover how your aging services organization can maximize online communications and social media to better reach and serve older adults.

Date: September 27, 2012  
Time: 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m. ET

[Register](#)



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*ACA Webinar on Integrating Care: Partnerships between Community-Based Organizations and Accountable Care Organizations*

On Friday, September 28, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) will continue its series of webinars on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (also known as the Affordable Care Act, or ACA) and its impact on older adults, people with disabilities and the aging and disability networks, focusing on integrated care partnerships.

Title: *Integrating Care: Partnerships between Community-Based Organizations and Accountable Care Organizations*

Date: Friday, September 28, 2012

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Eastern

Description:

Part of the delivery systems reforms being implemented under the Affordable Care Act includes the development of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) which are organizations formed by groups of doctors, hospitals and other providers that have agreed to work together to coordinate care for people with Medicare across settings. They take responsibility for the quality of care they provide to people with Medicare in return for the opportunity to share in savings realized through high-quality, well-coordinated care. Community-based organizations can play an important role in this care coordination. In this webinar we will present an overview of ACO efforts to date, and spotlight a partnership developed between a Pioneer ACO and community-based providers in Massachusetts.

Presenters:

- Emily Duhamel Brower, Accountable Care Programs, Atrius Health
- Dan Farmer, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Amy MacNulty, Community Care Linkages, Mass Home Care

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To register for the online event  
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1. Go to <https://aoa-events.webex.com/aoa-events/onstage/g.php?d=669692973&t=a>
2. Click "Register".
3. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

Once your registration is approved, you will receive a confirmation email message with instructions on how to join the event.

Please note: Space is limited, so please register as early as possible. This webinar will also be recorded and posted on our web site ([http://www.aoa.gov/Aging\\_Statistics/Health\\_care\\_reform.aspx#webinar](http://www.aoa.gov/Aging_Statistics/Health_care_reform.aspx#webinar)) soon after the webinar.

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### *Domestic Violence Awareness Month: 3rd Annual National Call of Unity*

Join the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence in this important discussion in observance of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Date: Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. EDT

This year's call will feature the story of [Christi Paul, CNN Headline News Anchor](#). Ms. Paul is a survivor of domestic violence and recently published author of a very inspiring and empowering book, *Love Isn't Supposed to Hurt*. She has a powerful voice and she uses it to help others in need, particularly children, as a Board of Directors member with Safe Kids Georgia and as an ambassador for [Liz Claiborne's Love Is Not Abuse](#).

Register for this FREE event at <http://dvam2012nationalcalloffunity.eventbrite.com>

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### **Tools & Information**

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#### **Reminder: What's Your Suggestion for the OAM 2013 Theme?**

As we approach the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Older Americans Month (OAM) in May 2013, the Administration for Community Living is requesting your thoughts and ideas on a theme to commemorate this important milestone.

Send your ideas and suggestions for consideration via e-mail to [communityliving@acl.hhs.gov](mailto:communityliving@acl.hhs.gov) .

All suggestions must be received by October 1, 2012.

To learn more about Older Americans Month and to review themes from years past visit

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press\\_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx)

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## **September Is...**

### *National Preparedness Month*

Emergency preparedness is not the sole concern of Californians for earthquakes, those who live in "Tornado Alley"; or Gulf Coast residents because of hurricanes. Most communities may be impacted by several types of hazards during a lifetime. Knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency is a critical part of being prepared and may make all the difference when seconds count.

The 2012 theme is *Pledge to Prepare*. By encouraging staff participation in multiple preparedness actions or events during National Preparedness Month, you can help make a significant commitment to building a safer and more resilient nation.

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) invites you to pledge to prepare now by [joining the National Preparedness Coalition](#)

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### *National Sickle Cell Disease Awareness Month*

Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a group of inherited red blood cell disorders.

People with sickle cell disease can live full lives and enjoy most of the activities that other people do. Click on the following link for tips from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that will help you or someone you know with sickle cell disease, stay as healthy as possible:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/sicklecell/healthyliving-living-well.html>

People with SCD can live full lives and enjoy most of the activities that other people do. If you have SCD, it's important to learn how to stay as health as possible.

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## **Recent DOL Announcements on Disability Employment**

### *Disability Employment Application Challenge*

The US Department of Labor has announced the winners of the disability employment application challenge. The contest, launched in May, encouraged third-party developers to build tools to help improve employment opportunities and outcomes for people with disabilities using publicly available resources and employment data.

Read more about this announcement

here: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20121801.htm>

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### *Disability Employment Initiative Funding*

Seven states receive \$20.7 million in Disability Employment Initiative funding from the US Department of Labor to improve education, training and employment opportunities and outcomes for youth and adults with disabilities who are unemployed, underemployed and/or receiving Social Security disability benefits. The initiative is jointly funded and administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration and its Office of Disability Employment Policy.

Read more about this announcement

here: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/ODEP20121933.htm>

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## **Recent Justice Department Actions to Protect Persons with Disabilities**

### *Settlement with Bank of America to Resolve Allegations of Discrimination Against Recipients of Disability Income*

Bank of America N.A. has agreed to maintain revised policies, conduct employee training and pay compensation to victims to resolve allegations that it engaged in a pattern or practice of discrimination on the basis of disability and receipt of public assistance in violation of the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (ECOA). The settlement, which is subject to court approval, was filed recently in federal court in Charlotte, NC, where Bank of America is headquartered. The terms of the settlement require Bank of America to pay \$1,000, \$2,500 or \$5,000 to eligible mortgage loan applicants

who were asked to provide a letter from their doctor to document the income they received from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Read more about this settlement

here: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/September/12-crt-1116.html>

*Justice Department Signs Agreement with Schuylkill County, Pa., to Ensure Civic Access for People with Disabilities*

The Justice Department recently announced an agreement with Schuylkill County, Pa., to improve access to all aspects of civic life for persons with disabilities. The agreement was reached under Project Civic Access (PCA), the department's initiative to ensure that cities, towns and counties throughout the country comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Read more about this agreement

here: <http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/2012/September/12-crt-1110.html>

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### **Call for Presentations...**

*2012 National Employment Conference*

The 2012 National Employment Conference, "The New Economy: Rethink, Realign, Reinvent" is an opportunity for all Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) stakeholders to explore this thought provoking question. The conference will include the following five themes: 1) Collaborating with Business; 2) High Growth Fields; 3) Bridging Research and Practice; 4) Opportunities in "Middle Skills Jobs"; and 5) Employment for Specific Populations.

**Proposals that support the above themes are now being accepted and are due no later than Tuesday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

The Planning Committee will select papers for presentation based on alignment with the conference theme, session design, and practical use to the audience. Proposals may be submitted for concurrent breakout sessions, poster sessions, or both. Nominees selected for presentation will be notified no later than Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, and presenters are expected to cover the costs of their participation in the conference.

For additional information, please contact: Maureen McGuire-Kuletz, Ed.D, CRC, at 202-973-1550 or [crcrc@gwu.edu](mailto:crcrc@gwu.edu).

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n4a 2013

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is requesting workshop proposals for presentation at the n4a 38th Annual Conference & Tradeshow. More than 600 Area Agency on Aging and Title VI Native American aging program professionals from across the country attend the Conference each year. You are invited to submit a proposal to share your experience and expertise — your *Answers on Aging* — with your colleagues in the Aging Network.

The Call for Presentations closes Monday, October 29.

Do not miss your chance to be a part of the action in Louisville, Kentucky, July 27-31, 2013.

[Submit a proposal today!](#)

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### **Crime Prevention Month Is Almost Here**

Is your organization gearing up for Crime Prevention Month activities in October? If so, check out the Crime Prevention tool kit on [GoDirect.org](http://GoDirect.org). It includes newsletter copy and other materials to encourage federal benefit check recipients to protect their money by switching to electronic payments before the March 1, 2013 deadline.

If you would like to order free fliers or posters to use at your safety events and presentations, be sure to order them soon! Simply complete the [online order form](#) and receive your materials within two weeks.

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### **Centenarian DNA to Be Used to Unlock Medical Mysteries**

Life expectancy has increased for Americans from 49 in 1900 to 78 in 2010, and there are now 53,000 centenarians living among us. More than 60 of these centenarians have so far volunteered to help with the X PRIZE 100 Over 100, a \$10 million competition to accurately sequence the whole genome of 100 subjects within 30 days, in a quest to advance research in predictive and personalized medicine.

Centenarians will donate a sample of their DNA, as well as information about lifestyle factors that could contribute to their longevity. The X PRIZE Foundation (<http://www.xprize.org/>) creates such competitions to stimulate

investment in research and development in five groups: education, exploration, energy and environment, global development, and life sciences.

The Foundation will accept more centenarian volunteers until December 2012.

When the competition is complete, the X PRIZE Foundation will compile a public database of the DNA sequences and cell lines from the centenarian genomes. That way the information stored there will be available to any researcher or scientist for use in their quest to decode longevity secrets that might lead to more medical breakthroughs.

For more information, go to [genomics.xprize.org](http://genomics.xprize.org)

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### **Recent Reports**

*What Is Driving U.S. Health Care Spending?*

<http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/BPC%20Health%20Care%20Cost%20Drivers%20Brief%20Sept%202012.pdf>

Source: Bipartisan Policy Center

Date: September 2012

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