

Meningitis Vaccine for Umrah - Complete Vaccination Guide for UK

Meningitis vaccine for Umrah explained. Where to get it (Boots, Superdrug, NHS), cost, how long it lasts, and all Saudi Arabia vaccine requirements for UK pilgrims.

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You need the meningitis vaccine for Umrah. It's the one mandatory vaccine for almost every UK pilgrim going to Saudi Arabia for Umrah or Hajj. No valid certificate means real trouble at visa stage or on arrival. So let's keep this simple. It's one injection, it must be done at least 10 days before you arrive, it usually costs about £45 to £65 in the UK, and it normally lasts 5 years.

We get asked this all the time. Our team reminds every pilgrim about it early, because last-minute vaccine bookings can go wrong fast. In this guide, we'll show you the exact Umrah vaccine requirements, where to get the jab in the UK, what Boots, Superdrug, Asda and private clinics charge, how long the MenACWY vaccine lasts, and what else is worth sorting before you fly. If you're also preparing the rest of your trip, our guide on [how to perform Umrah step by step](#) is a good next read.

Always confirm the latest rules with your travel agent or the Saudi authorities before travel. Health rules can change.



Meningitis Vaccine for Umrah UK Certificate and Passport on Clinic Desk

Umrah vaccine requirements for UK pilgrims

Here's the short answer.

For most UK pilgrims, the only mandatory vaccine is the **Meningitis ACWY** vaccine. That's the one Saudi Arabia requires for Umrah. The rest are either recommended or only needed in special cases.

And yes, this catches people out.

Some travellers think a general travel health check is enough. It isn't. You need the correct MenACWY certificate. That's the key document.

Vaccine	Status	Who needs it	Certificate required?
Meningitis ACWY	Mandatory	All pilgrims aged 1+	Yes

Vaccine	Status	Who needs it	Certificate required?
COVID-19	Check latest rules	All pilgrims should review current guidance	Sometimes
Polio	Mandatory in some cases	Travellers from listed endemic countries	If applicable
Yellow fever	Mandatory in some cases	Travellers from listed endemic countries	If applicable
Seasonal flu	Recommended	All pilgrims, especially elderly and vulnerable	No
Hepatitis A	Recommended	Most travellers	No
Hepatitis B	Recommended	Some travellers	No
Typhoid	Recommended	Some travellers	No
MMR	Recommended	Anyone not fully up to date	No

So, for UK pilgrims, the main thing is clear. The meningitis vaccine for Umrah is the one you must have.

We also strongly suggest checking your flu jab, especially if you're older, pregnant, travelling with children, or have asthma or diabetes. Masjid al-Haram in Makkah and Masjid an-Nabawi in Madinah get very busy. Respiratory bugs spread fast there. That's just the reality.

If you're still sorting your full trip plan, you can also compare current [Umrah packages UK 2026](#) options and read our [complete Umrah guide](#) for the rest of your prep.

Meningitis vaccine for Umrah - what it is and why it matters

This is the key section.

The meningitis vaccine for Umrah is the **MenACWY** vaccine. It protects against four strains of meningococcal bacteria: A, C, W and Y. Saudi Arabia requires it because Umrah and Hajj bring huge crowds together from all over the world. That raises the risk of infection spread.

It's one injection.

Usually it's given in the upper arm. The appointment itself is quick. Most people are in and out in about 10 to 15 minutes, certificate included.

Question	Answer
Vaccine name	Meningitis ACWY (MenACWY) conjugate vaccine
Common brands	Menveo, Nimenrix, Menactra, Menquadfi
How many doses?	1 dose
When to get it?	At least 10 days before arrival in Saudi Arabia
How long until valid?	10 days after injection
How long does it last?	Usually 5 years for conjugate vaccine
Certificate needed?	Yes, International Certificate of Vaccination
Common side effects	Sore arm, mild headache, tiredness, low fever

Now, here's the thing. The 10-day rule is strict. If you get vaccinated too late, your certificate may not count for travel. We tell our clients not to leave this until the week before departure. That is where stress starts.

For the official medical background, you can read the [NHS MenACWY vaccine information](#). And for UK pilgrim-specific alerts, see the [UK government advice for pilgrims](#).

If you're also working through your paperwork, our [Umrah visa UK 2026 guide](#) and [Umrah visa application guide](#) will help.



Meningitis Acwy Vaccination Certificate for Saudi Arabia Umrah Close Up

Meningitis vaccine for Umrah – how long does it last?

Good news here.

The MenACWY conjugate vaccine usually lasts 5 years. So if you've had it in the last five years, and your certificate is still valid, you may not need another dose for this trip.

But check the type.

Older polysaccharide vaccines were valid for 3 years. These are less common now, but they still matter if you were vaccinated a while back. Look at your certificate or ask the clinic that gave it.

- **Conjugate vaccine** such as Menveo or Nimenrix: usually valid for 5 years
- **Older polysaccharide vaccine:** usually valid for 3 years
- **If your certificate has expired:** you need a new dose

We always tell pilgrims to take a photo of the certificate and save the expiry date in their phone. It sounds basic. Still, it helps. And it stops that last-minute panic when you can't remember if your old jab still counts.

If you're budgeting for the whole trip, our [Umrah cost breakdown](#) and [full Umrah cost from UK guide](#) cover the rest of the expected spend.

Where to get the meningitis vaccine in the UK - cost comparison

This is what most people want.

You can usually get the meningitis vaccine for Umrah from Asda Pharmacy, Superdrug, Boots, a private travel clinic, or sometimes your GP on a private basis. The vaccine itself is the same type of protection. What changes is the price, how easy the booking is, and how quickly you can get seen.

Provider	Cost	Booking	Certificate included?	Walk-in?	Notes
Asda Pharmacy	£45	Online or in store	Yes	Some stores	Often the cheapest major option
Superdrug	£57	Online	Yes	Usually appointment	Popular and easy to book
Boots	£57-£65	Online	Yes	Usually appointment	Wide UK coverage
Private travel clinic	£50-£80	Phone or online	Yes	Varies	Useful for complex health needs
NHS	Free if eligible	GP or NHS service	Yes	No	Not usually free for adult Umrah travellers

Superdrug is one of the most common choices we see. It tends to be simple. Book online, turn up, get the jab, get your certificate, done.

Boots is also widely used. Some branches charge a little more than others, so the price can vary. That's normal.

Asda is often the cheapest major pharmacy option at about £45. But not every branch offers travel vaccines. So check first.

NHS is where people get confused. The MenACWY vaccine is free on the NHS for some groups, such as Year 9 pupils, some under-25 university students, and certain at-risk groups. But adult Umrah travellers usually need to pay privately. We get asked this a lot. And yes, really, many people assume their GP will do it free for travel. Usually they won't.

One common mistake we see is pilgrims booking the cheapest appointment they can find, but forgetting to ask if the certificate is issued on the day. Always ask that question.



Meningitis Vaccine Superdrug Boots UK Pharmacy Travel Clinic Comparison

If you're travelling from a specific city, our pages for [Umrah packages from London](#), [Umrah packages from Manchester](#), and [Umrah packages from Birmingham](#) can help you line up local travel planning too.

Which provider do we usually suggest?

Honestly, whichever is easiest for you.

If price matters most, try Asda first. If easy online booking matters most, Superdrug is often the smoothest. If you want a broader travel health chat, a private travel clinic can be worth the extra few pounds.

Just don't delay.

Saudi Arabia vaccine requirements for UK pilgrims - full 2027 guide

Let's make this very clear.

The Saudi Arabia vaccine requirements for UK pilgrims are usually simple. The mandatory one is MenACWY. Polio and yellow fever only apply if you've travelled from or through certain countries. Flu, COVID-19, Hepatitis A and others may be advised, but they are not usually mandatory for UK-based Umrah travellers.

Vaccine	Required?	For UK pilgrims?	Certificate?	Typical UK cost
Meningitis ACWY	Yes	Yes	Yes	£45-£65
COVID-19	Rules vary	Check latest	Sometimes	Usually NHS route if offered
Polio	Sometimes	Not usually from UK	If applicable	N/A
Yellow fever	Sometimes	Not usually from UK	If applicable	N/A
Flu	Recommended	Yes	No	Free seasonally on NHS or private fee
Hepatitis A	Recommended	Yes	No	About £50-£90
Hepatitis B	Recommended	Some travellers	No	Course cost varies
Typhoid	Recommended	Some travellers	No	About £30-£50

So the bottom line is simple. For UK pilgrims, the meningitis vaccine for Umrah is the must-have. The others depend on your age, health, season of travel, and latest public health advice.

And please check updates close to departure. Saudi rules can change between seasons, especially around Ramadan and Hajj.

If you're travelling in peak periods, our [best time to perform Umrah 2026](#) guide and [Ramadan Umrah packages UK](#) article explain crowd levels and planning windows.

When to get your meningitis vaccine before Umrah

Earlier is better.

You must get the MenACWY vaccine at least **10 days before arrival** in Saudi Arabia. Not 9 days. Not a week. At least 10 full days.

Your travel date	When to get vaccinated	Our view
1 month or more away	Book now	Ideal
2 to 4 weeks away	This week	Good
10 to 14 days away	Today	Very tight
Under 10 days away	Too late for valid timing	High risk

Our own rule is 3 to 4 weeks before travel. That gives you breathing room. If the clinic cancels, if you need to travel to another branch, or if you misplace the first certificate, you still have time.

A family we helped last spring nearly missed their flight because they assumed the vaccine was valid straight away. It isn't. The certificate only becomes valid after the required window. That's why we push this point so hard.

If you're also sorting airport transfers, read our [Jeddah Airport to Makkah guide](#). It helps once you land.

Travel insurance for Umrah - do you need it?

Yes, we think you do.

Travel insurance for Umrah may not be the first thing on your mind, but it matters. If you get ill, miss a flight, lose luggage, or need hospital care in Saudi Arabia, the cost can rise fast. And to be honest, a

small policy fee is far easier than a big medical bill abroad.

Provider type	Price from	Medical cover	Umrah specific?	Notes
InsureandGo	About £30-£50	High, depending on policy	Saudi cover available	Check policy wording
Specialist Umrah insurance	From about £49	Comprehensive	Yes	Can suit older pilgrims
Budget monthly option	From about £8.77 per month	Basic	Sometimes	Read limits carefully
Standard UK insurer	About £20-£80	Varies	Not always	Confirm Saudi Arabia is covered

Look for these points:

- Emergency medical cover
- Repatriation back to the UK
- Trip cancellation or curtailment
- Cover for pre-existing conditions if needed
- Luggage and passport cover
- Saudi Arabia included clearly in the policy

One more thing. If you're elderly or travelling with health needs, tell the insurer everything. Don't guess. Don't leave things out. A cheap policy that won't pay out isn't cheap at all.

While you're organising documents, our [Umrah packing list from the UK](#) can help you keep all health papers together.

Staying healthy during Umrah - 7 quick tips

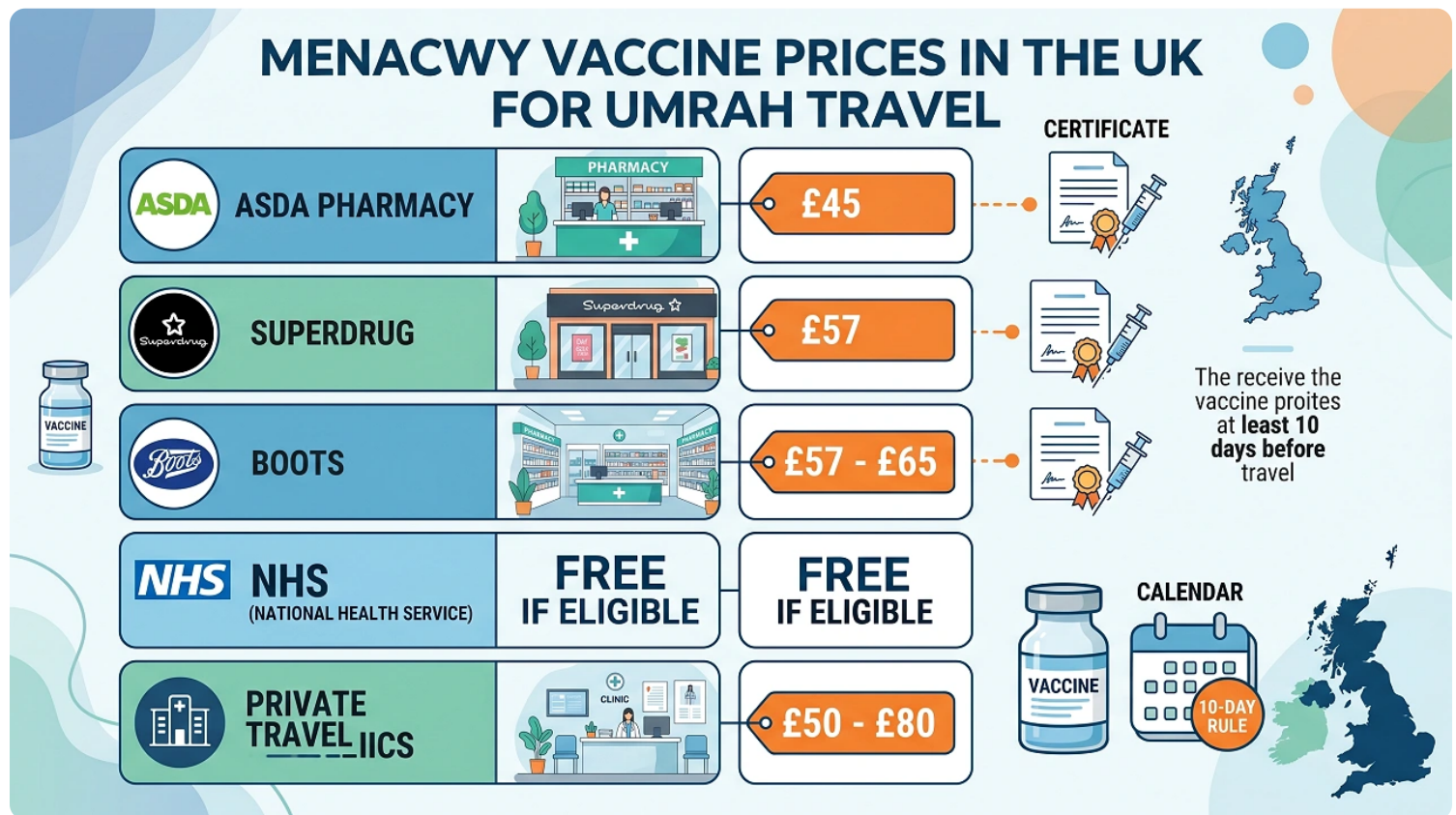
Small habits help a lot.

Most health issues we hear about are not dramatic. They're things like coughs, sore throats, blisters, dehydration and exhaustion. Still, they can affect your worship badly if you don't plan ahead.

1. **Get vaccinated early.** Three to four weeks before travel is best.
2. **Consider the flu jab.** Crowds make spread easier.
3. **Drink plenty of water.** Zamzam and bottled water both help. Stay steady with it.
4. **Wash your hands often.** Carry sanitiser too.
5. **Wear good walking shoes.** You'll do a lot of steps in Makkah and Madinah.
6. **Pack basic medicine.** Pain relief, plasters, rehydration sachets and your own regular tablets matter.
7. **Rest properly.** You don't have to push through every hour.

Look, many pilgrims try to do too much on day one. Then they end up wiped out. Pace yourself. Your Umrah trip is spiritual, yes, but your body still has limits.

For practical prep, read our [full Umrah packing list with health essentials](#), plus our hotel guides for [hotels near Haram Makkah](#) and [hotels near Masjid Nabawi](#).



Meningitis Vaccine Cost UK Comparison Boots Superdrug Asda Nhs Infographic for Umrah

Frequently asked questions - meningitis vaccine for Umrah

These are the questions we hear most.

Do I need the meningitis vaccine for Umrah?

Yes. The meningitis vaccine for Umrah is mandatory for pilgrims aged 1 and over entering Saudi Arabia for Umrah or Hajj. Without a valid MenACWY certificate, your travel plans can be delayed or refused.

How much does the meningitis vaccine cost in the UK?

Usually about £45 to £65 at major providers. Asda is often around £45, Superdrug around £57, and Boots about £57 to £65. Private travel clinics may charge about £50 to £80.

Can I get the meningitis vaccine for Umrah on the NHS?

Only in some cases. The NHS offers MenACWY free for eligible groups, such as Year 9 pupils and some students under 25 starting university. Most adult Umrah travellers will need to pay privately.

How long does the meningitis vaccine last?

Usually 5 years for the conjugate vaccine. If you had an older polysaccharide version, it may only last 3 years. Check your certificate before you book anything.

How long before travel do I need the vaccine?

At least 10 days before you arrive in Saudi Arabia. We advise 3 to 4 weeks before travel. That gives you a safer buffer.

What happens if I don't have the certificate?

You could face visa issues or entry problems. That's why we tell every pilgrim to keep the original certificate safe and carry a photo copy on their phone too.

Can I get the vaccine at Superdrug?

Yes. Superdrug is one of the most common UK options. It usually offers MenACWY for about £57, with booking online and certificate issued at the appointment.

Can I get the vaccine at Boots?

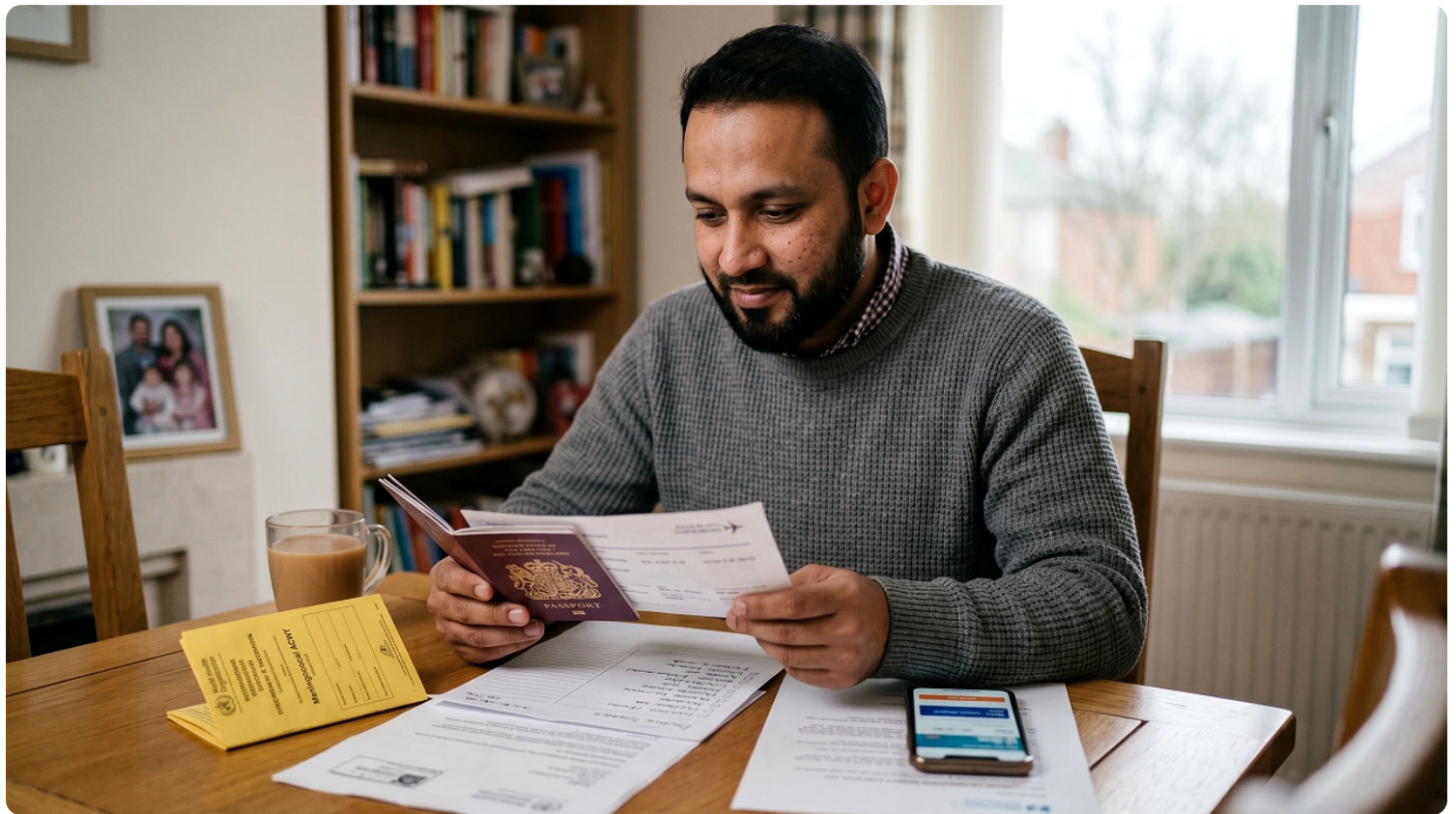
Yes. Boots also offers MenACWY, usually around £57 to £65 depending on branch. Check local availability before you assume your nearest store does it.

Do I need travel insurance for Umrah?

We strongly recommend it. It helps with medical care, cancellations, lost bags and other travel problems. For many pilgrims, it gives real peace of mind.

Do I need COVID-19 vaccination for Umrah in 2027?

Rules can change. As of mid-2026, it has not usually been a fixed requirement for UK pilgrims in the same way as MenACWY, but you must check the latest Saudi guidance before travel.



UK Muslim Family Preparing Umrah Documents Including Vaccination Certificate and Passport

Final advice before you travel

Keep it simple.

Book your MenACWY jab early, make sure the certificate is correct, and keep both paper and phone copies. That's the main job. Once that's done, the rest of your planning gets much easier.

If you're ready to sort the wider trip, you can [browse our Umrah packages](#), look at a practical option like the [10 Days 4 Star Umrah Package](#), or [get a free Umrah quote](#) from our team. And if you still need help with rites and prep, read our guides on [how to perform Umrah step by step](#) and the [complete Umrah dua list](#).

May Allah make your journey safe, accepted and easy. Ameen.

Helpful next steps for UK pilgrims

If you want to turn this advice into a clear plan, the pages below will help you go one step further. They cover the wider rules, package choices, checklists, and practical travel points that usually come up after you finish a guide like this one.

- [Hajj Packages UK 2026](#) This pillar page gives you the full background, key rules, and step-by-step context around this topic. It is the best place to go if you want the bigger picture before you make any travel decisions. It is especially helpful if you are looking for hajj packages uk.
- [Bradford Economy 3 Star 10 Nights Umrah Package from UK](#) This page is useful when you want real options, package details, hotel information, and practical UK departure planning. It helps you compare what is available instead of staying at the research stage.
- [How Can You Get a Saudi eVisa from the UK? Complete Application Guide](#) This supporting guide answers a closely related question and adds more detail, examples, or travel tips. It works well as your next read if you want a narrower answer after this main article. It is especially helpful if you are looking for Learn how to get a Saudi eVisa from the UK. Step-by-step guide covering requirements, fees, processing time, and travel tips.
- [Umrah Visa Price UK 2026: Complete Cost Breakdown for British Passport Holders Before You Apply](#) This supporting guide answers a closely related question and adds more detail, examples, or travel tips. It works well as your next read if you want a narrower answer after this main article. It is especially helpful if you are looking for Discover the Umrah visa price UK for 2026. Learn visa fees, total travel costs, and how British passport holders can apply for an Umrah visa easily.
- [Bradford Economy 3 Star 14 Nights Umrah Package from UK](#) This page is useful when you want real options, package details, hotel information, and practical UK departure planning. It helps you compare what is available instead of staying at the research stage.

- [Bradford Economy 3 Star 21 Nights Umrah Package from UK](#) This page is useful when you want real options, package details, hotel information, and practical UK departure planning. It helps you compare what is available instead of staying at the research stage.

Reading a few of these pages together will give you a fuller view than relying on one article alone. That matters even more when you are comparing routes, costs, rituals, and timing from the UK.

Small planning details make a big difference. A stronger plan usually means fewer rushed decisions, fewer missed steps, and a calmer journey overall. That is why we always suggest reading the core pillar guide, one practical package page, and a few narrower support articles before you book or travel.

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