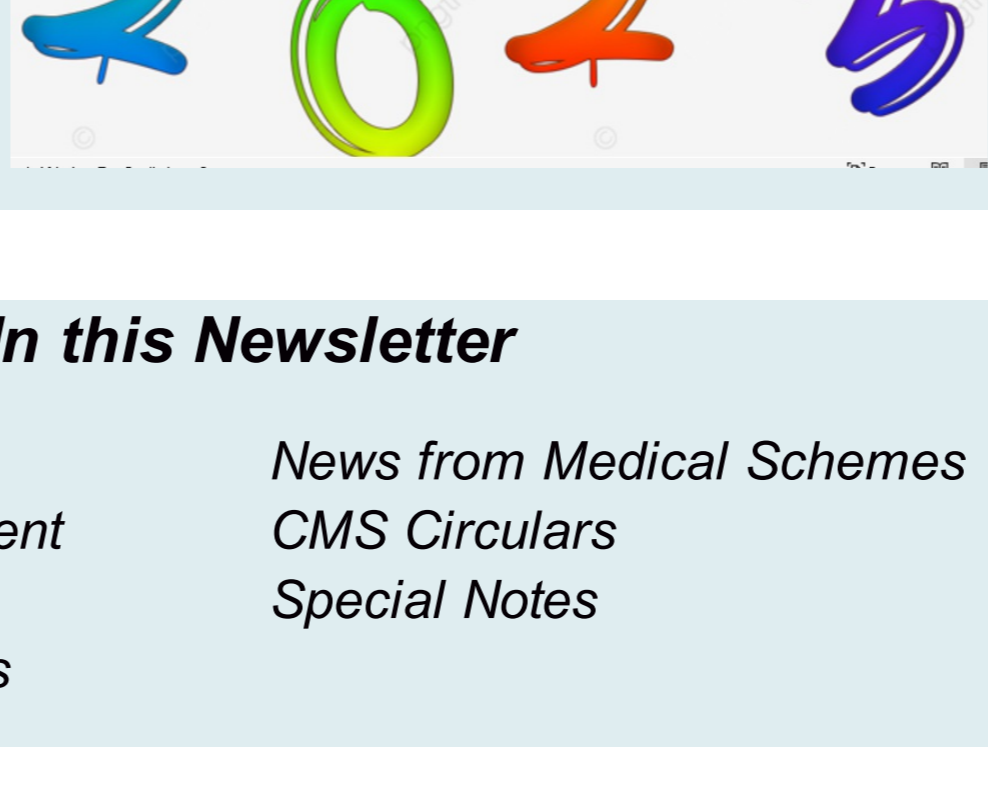


PRIVATE PRACTICE REVIEW

NOTICE

Private Practice Review presents the reader with a summary of the most relevant breaking news in the local and global healthcare industry, as obtained from media sources, including the public broadcaster, independent television broadcasters, independent news agencies, newspapers, radio and news sites. HealthMan strives to quote the Original Source. HealthMan compiles this information to provide the reader with a brief overview of the most recent events and developments as they are reported in the media. The views and opinions expressed in Private Practice Review are those of the authors of the media sources and do not necessarily reflect the views or opinions of HealthMan, its directors, employees and associates.

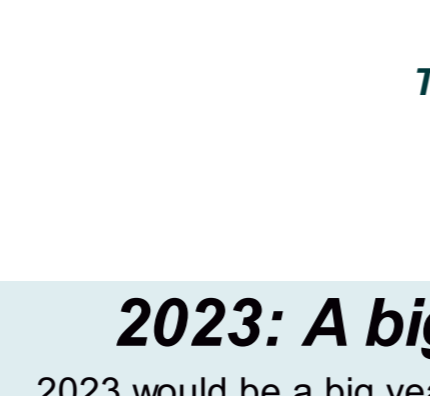
The HealthMan team wishes all its clients and loved ones good health, happiness, success and prosperity in 2023



In this Newsletter

Food for Thought News from Medical Schemes
 News from Government CMS Circulars
 Financial News Special Notes
 Pharmaceutical News

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Government wasted opportunity

The South African Communist Party (SACP), the ANC's key alliance partner, believes it will be a big struggle for the government to implement the National Health Insurance (NHI) anytime soon, reported *Sunday World* on 8 January 2023.

"The party said the state lost the opportunity to introduce the universal health coverage at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

"At the heart of the government's glaring failures, according to SACP general secretary Solly Mxoliso, was what he termed the 'tip-toeing, dilly-dallying and the non-committal approach'."

To read more, click on the button below

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2023: A big year for implementation of NHI
 2023 would be a big year for the framework of the legislation, according to Dr Nicholas Crisp, the Deputy Director-General of the NHI in the National Department of Health, reported *Health-e News* (13 Dec 2022).

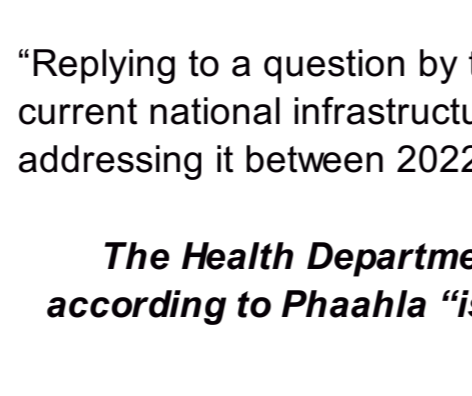
However, Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla said there are obstacles as right-wing organisations were already challenging the basis for implementing NHI in court and he expects a 'flurry of litigation' once the bill is passed.

Also Read:

NHI: Implementation headaches loom
Health-e News Service 13 December 2022

NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT

Almost R500-m involved in suspected 'bid-rigging' at DoH



"The Department of Health is set to spend nearly R500-m on a 'suspicious' and possibly irregular lease contract for its 'unsafe' new head office outside Pretoria."

- Pieter-Louis Myburgh in *Daily Maverick* (15 Jan 2023).

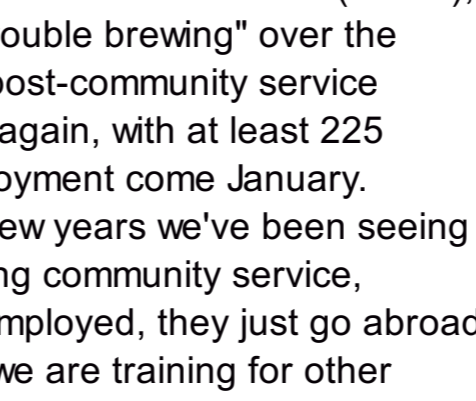
"Questionable tender decisions, an 'unsafe' building, alleged bid-rigging and a deviation from standard procurement processes that will see the appointed landlord getting paid at least R149-m more than the original bid price. These are some of the elements in the Department of Health's (DoH) R486-m lease deal with Hrowox, a company controlled by businessman Herbert Thaledi's Nthoese Developments.

"Apparently former Minister of Health Dr Zweli Mkhize features in the series of developments that saw the DoH move into its new building. Some of the events leading up to the Hrowox contract bear a curious similarity to the Digital Vibes affair," writes Myburgh.

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R200-bn to upgrade public hospitals



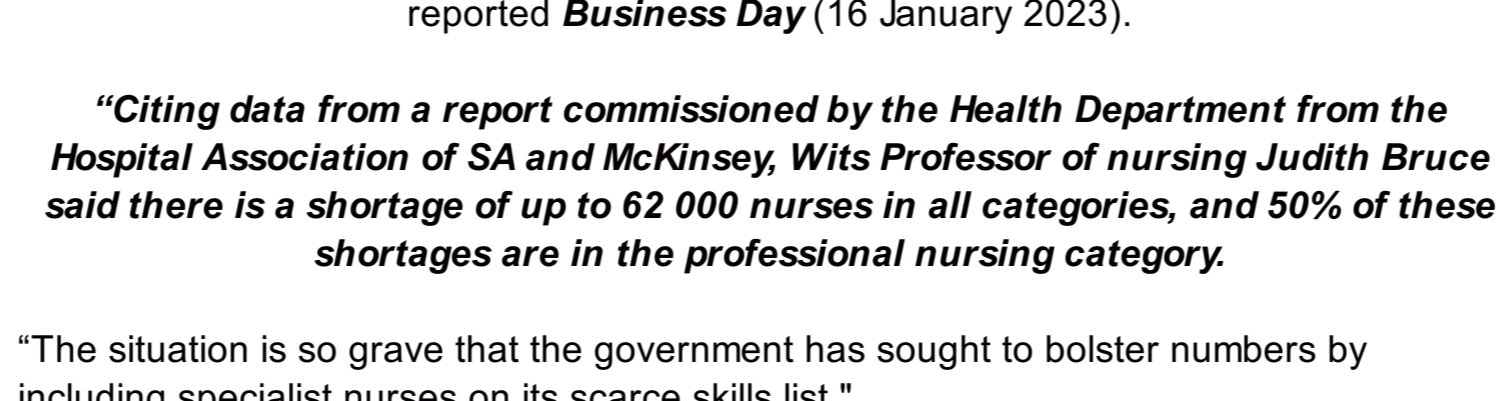
It is "indisputable" that public hospitals need infrastructure maintenance and investment, admitted Health Minister Joe Phaahla in Parliament. – *BusinessLive* (30 Dec 2022).

"Replying to a question by the DA's Michele Clarke, Phaahla noted that there was a current national infrastructure backlog of R7,9-bn, with the total estimated cost of addressing it between 2022/23 and 2024/25 estimated at R23,8-bn.

The Health Department has quantified the cost at close to R200-bn, which, according to Phaahla "is not going to be available in the short- to medium-term".

To read more, click on the button below:

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R18-m for electrical repairs at Tambo Memorial

Electrical repairs at the Tambo Memorial Hospital in Boksburg on the East Rand will cost about R18-m, reported *Times Live* (27 December 2022).

The hospital was damaged by a gas tanker explosion which killed 40 people and left scores injured, including hospital staff and patients. The tanker exploded about 100m from the hospital after becoming wedged under a bridge.

The repairs relate to light fittings, cables, cable channels and other related electrical issues.

'Doctors abroad'

Eyewitness News reported on 22 December that Dr Mvuyisi Mzukwa, vice-chairperson and spokesperson of the South African Medical Association (SAMA), said there's "trouble brewing" over the placement of post-community service doctors, once again, with at least 225 facing unemployment come January.

"For the past few years we've been seeing doctors finishing community service, becoming unemployed, they just go abroad - this tells me we are training for other countries," said Mzukwa.

Also listen to:

These doctors want to work in SA's rural hospitals, but there's no money to hire them

To listen to the article on the *News24* website, click on the button below

Listen to the article

'SA's pipeline for training specialist nurses throttled'



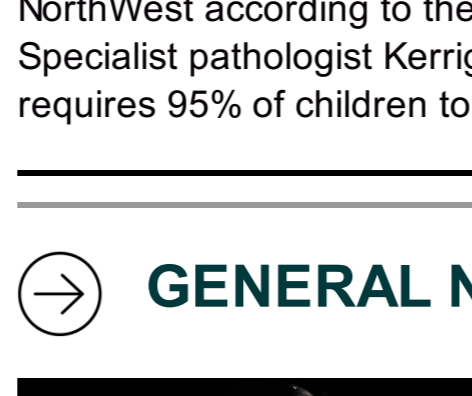
"According to SA Nursing Council (SANC) data, universities and public nursing colleges have been given the go-ahead to train only 70 nurses seeking postgraduate qualifications in emergency care this year, 80 for oncology, fewer than 200 for critical care, and just 265 for midwifery," reported *Business Day* (16 January 2023).

"Citing data from a report commissioned by the Health Department from the Hospital Association of SA and McKinsey, Wits Professor of nursing Judith Bruce said there is a shortage of up to 62,000 nurses in all categories, and 50% of these shortages are in the professional nursing category."

"The situation is so grave that the government has sought to bolster numbers by including specialist nurses on its scarce skills list."

• "The government's decision to introduce new qualifications in 2020 meant nursing education institutions had to acquire new accreditation from multiple bodies: The Department of Higher Education & Training, the Council for Higher Education, the SA Qualifications Authority and the SANC before they could begin training specialist nurses on the new curriculum. But red tape stymied their plans to such an extent that no new students could begin specialist nursing training in 2020 and 2022."

FINANCIAL NEWS



Day hospitals finally starting to catch on

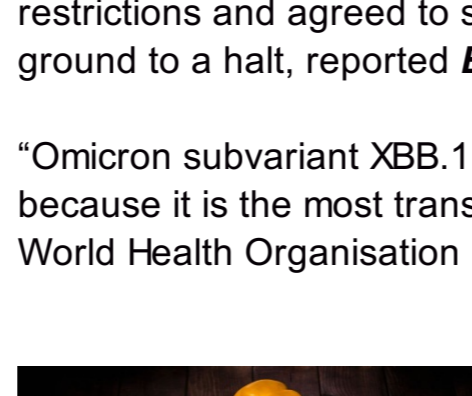
"The shift to day hospitals has been long in coming, but they are finally starting to catch on," wrote *Jaco Visser* in *Financial Mail* (22 Dec 2022).

Private hospital groups Mediclinic, Netcare and Life Healthcare, have been setting up day hospitals as the uptake of outpatient services is gaining traction.

According to Advanced Health CEO Gerhard van Emmenis, technology is driving more and more surgical procedures to day hospitals. These include procedures such as same-day knee replacements and arthroplasty.

Though the procedures provided by day hospitals are "much cheaper" than similar ones at acute hospitals, accessibility of day hospitals is still a stumbling block. There are about 420 public hospitals, 215 private hospitals and 120 day hospitals in South Africa.

PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS



PTG to meet with DoH after 'puzzling' price increase

The Pharmaceutical Task Group (PTG) has requested a meeting with senior health officials over the "puzzling" 3.28% maximum price increase for private sector medicine sales in 2023, reported *Business Day* (10 January 2023).

The PTG said it had anticipated a much higher price hike in line with the 6.7% average consumer price inflation for 2022 and may request an additional price increase later in the year, which has been permitted twice before.

"Risk PTG chairperson Stavros Nicolaou said a SEP adjustment significantly below inflation posed a risk to the supply of medicines to SA, as it could render previously profitable products unsustainable. He warned that companies might withdraw unviable products, adding that striking a balance between affordability and sustainability was vital."

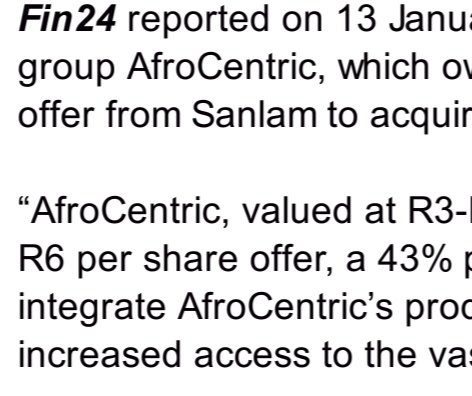
Surge in measles cases a side-effect of the pandemic



"A study published in the SA Medical Journal has revealed that SA's surge in measles cases has been fuelled by the disruption to routine childhood immunisation programmes caused by the coronavirus pandemic," reported *Business Day* (12 January 2023).

While the national vaccination coverage rate recovered to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2021, immunisation rates were still below average in Limpopo and the NorthWest according to the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD). Specialist pathologist Kerrigan McCarthy said protecting the population from measles requires 95% of children to be vaccinated.

GENERAL NEWS

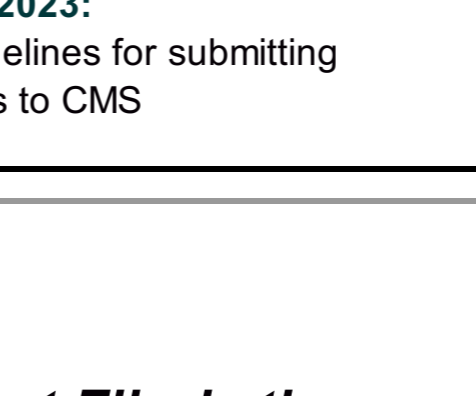


Concerns about SA's high teen pregnancy rate

"Over 1,800 babies were born in public hospitals on New Year's Day. Of the total moms who gave birth on both Christmas and New Year's Day, over 100 were underage, with the youngest being only 13-years-old," reported *Eyewitness News* (3 January 2022).

A spokesperson for the Department of Health, Foster Mohale, said not only government, but also families and other community structures need to assist in reducing school dropouts which hinders formal education for many adolescent girls and young women, making them vulnerable to poverty.

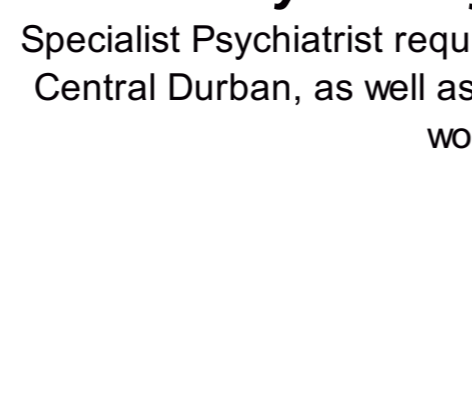
No reason to impose new restrictions



Health Minister Joe Phaahla recently announced that no new Covid-19 restrictions will be imposed, following the detection of the highly transmissible Omicron subvariant XBB1.5 in SA. However, government will step up Covid-19 testing and surveillance.

"Phaahla said the national coronavirus command council decided against imposing travel restrictions and agreed to step up SA's vaccination programme, which has virtually ground to a halt, reported *Business Day* (11 January 2022).

"Omicron subvariant XBB.1.5 has caused concern among scientists and health authorities because it is the most transmissible coronavirus strain detected to date, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO)."



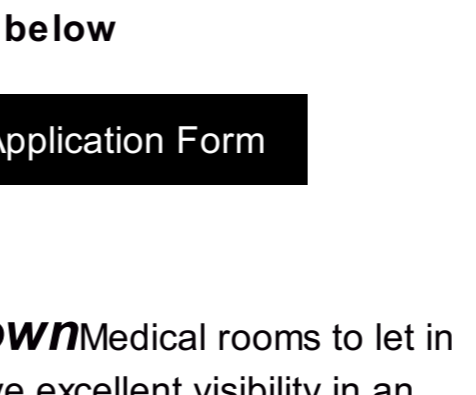
Concerns about quality of hospital meals

According to a study of meals served at Cape Town hospitals, the food served to hospital patients are way below the health department's "ration scale" and patients' energy requirements, reported *Financial Mail* (12 January 2023).

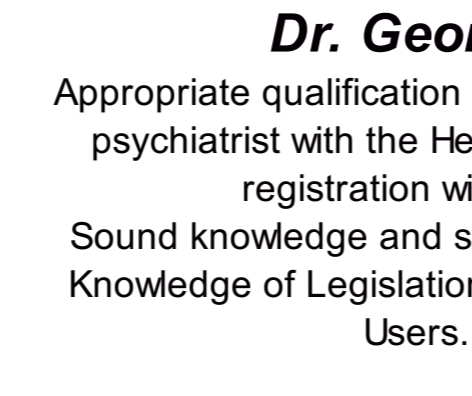
The daily energy requirements for the 71 male patients who took part in the survey was calculated at 8,255k-8,970kJ and for the 17 female patients at 7,104kJ-7,333kJ. But at the central hospital, they consumed 32% (men) and 29% (women) less. Protein requirements were 73g-77g for men and 75g-80g for women, but patients at the smallest hospital ate just over half of what they needed.

NEWS FROM MEDICAL SCHEMES

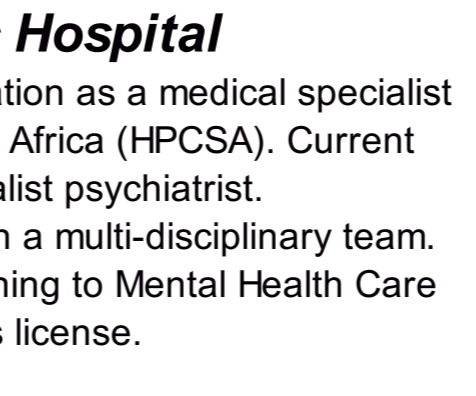
200% rise in heart-related claims



According to annual group risk claims data released by *Discovery Employee Benefits*, international data suggests that Long Covid-19 increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes due to the heightened risk of blood clotting conditions. Researchers said this undoubtedly contributes to the greater number of cardiovascular-related claims reflected in the data.



AfroCentric shareholders approve Sanlam takeover offer



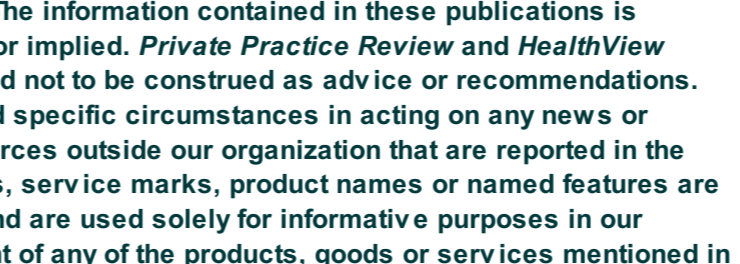
Fin24 reported on 13 January that shareholders of black-owned JSE-listed investment group AfroCentric, which owns medical aid administrator MedScheme, have approved an offer from Sanlam to acquire most of its 64-45% of AfroCentric and at least 55%.

"AfroCentric, valued at R3-bn on the JSE, announced in October that Sanlam had made a R6 per share offer, a 43% premium to its shares before the offer. Sanlam will be able to integrate AfroCentric's product offering into its ecosystem, while AfroCentric will gain increased access to the vast Sanlam distribution network.

"As part of the transaction, Sanlam proposes that its stake of almost 29% in ACT Healthcare Assets (AHA) be transferred to AfroCentric in exchange for an equal stake in AfroCentric."

CIRCULARS FROM THE CMS

New circulars published by the CMS in January 2023:



Circular 1 of 2023: Regulation portal submissions

Circular 2 of 2023: Standard Guidelines for submitting business plans to CMS

SPECIAL NOTES

Practice for sale in Gqwerthel/Port Elizabeth
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 Gosh Young: 074 182 2059
 www.goshco.co.za

Vacancy for GP in Krugersdorp and Ruimsig
 A busy medical practice in Krugersdorp and Ruimsig (West Rand) requires a full-time skilled professional who is passionate about primary healthcare. General Practitioner and Private Practice Experience will be an advantage, but not required.

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 Please send CV to: manager@krugersdorpmedicalcentre.co.za

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 Specialised Psychiatrist required to join established and busy Private Practice with rooms in Central Durban, as well as the South of Durban. Attractive remuneration and favourable working conditions. Partnership possible.

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 031 309 2172
 drbacus@telkomsa.net

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Vacancy for psychiatrist at New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town
 A full-time specialist post in psychiatry immediately available at New Somerset Hospital, Cape Town. The post is a joint appointment of the Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, University of Cape Town and the Provincial Government of the Western Cape

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 Appropriate qualification in psychiatry which allows registration as a medical specialist psychiatrist with the Health Professions Council of South Africa (HPCSA). Current registration with the HPCSA as a medical specialist psychiatrist.

Sound knowledge and skills in Psychiatry. Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team. Knowledge of Legislation, Policies and Procedures pertaining to Mental Health Care Users. Computer literacy. A valid driver's license.

For more info contact:
 Dr. LK Ndhlovu Tel: 012 529 3433/3201

Vacancy for Ophthalmologist Cape Town
 Position for an Ophthalmic Surgeon at the Eye Laser Clinic Group wanting to reside and work in Cape Town with view to partnership. Preference for retinal surgery experience. Equity partnership available.

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