

ROM:

## Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction (ACLR) Rehabilitation Guideline

<b>Graft Choice:</b>	☐ Bone-Patellar Tendor	n-Bone (BTB)	☐ Hamstring	☐ Quad	☐ Allograft
	Pre	ecautions			
ACLR +/- Meniscetomy	Weightbearing Status: 50% foot flat weight bearing Crutches: Used immediately post-op; w Goal to discharge (D/C) 4-6 w Brace: Locked in extension during control (Goal to D/C 4-6 we ROM: As tolerated focusing on knee	eaned based on qua eeks 1 <sup>St</sup> week then unl eeks)	d control and heel to t	oe pattern;	Caution WB until nerve block wears off
ACLR + Meniscus Repair	Weightbearing Status:  ☐ Weight Bearing As Tolera Crutches: Until WB restriction lifted and Brace: Locked in extension x 2 weeks weeks) ROM: Limit 0-90° X 4 weeks then as  No OC HS Strengthening x 8 x	d heel to toe pattern s then unlocked as R tolerated weeks air: No closed chain	4 Weeks Bea wee (Goal to D/C crutches	by 6 weeks) D/C 4-6	<ul> <li>Crutch D/C Criteria</li> <li>Able to perform straight leg raise (SLR) with &lt; 3° of lag</li> <li>ROM 0-90°</li> <li>Able to complete 5 reps of step-up to a 7" step</li> <li>Able to ambulate in brace with minimal to no antalgia or asymmetry</li> </ul>
□ ACL Repair	Weightbearing Status: 50% FFWB x 3 days, then tran Crutches: Used immediately post-op; w (Goal to D/C by 4 weeks) Brace: Locked in extension during 1s control (Goal to D/C 4-6 week ROM: As tolerated focusing on knee	eaned based on qua t week then unlocke ks) – Locked in exten	d (as ROM dictates) wi	th good quad	Criteria to Unlock Brace  ◆ Rom 0-60°
ACLR + Multi- Ligament Reconstruction	Weightbearing Status:  Crutches:  ROM:	-			<ul> <li>Able to perform SLR with &lt; 5° of lag</li> <li>Able to demonstrate single leg stance (SLS)" for 5-10 sec         Brace D/C Criteria     </li> <li>ROM 0-120°</li> <li>Normal gait pattern</li> <li>No quad lag w/ SLR</li> </ul>
ACLR + PLC Repair	Weightbearing Status:  WBAT  Crutches: Until WB restriction lifted and	50% WB x 4 V	I	x 4 weeks	<ul> <li>Reciprocal stair negotiation</li> <li>Able to complete 5 reps of step-up and step-down exercise to a 7" step</li> </ul>
	Brace: Locked in extension x 4 week: Open as motion allows (Goal ROM: Limit 0-90° x 4 weeks Weightbearing Status:	s to DC at 8 weeks)			
OTHER:	Crutches:				

## PHASE I (0-14 days)

### Goals:

- 1. Reduce inflammation, swelling and pain (Stroke Test 2+ or less)
- Achieve full passive knee extension Equal to contralateral lower extremity (LE) - hyperextension possible
- Restore patellar mobility

- Gradually improve knee flexion mobility
- 5. Establish/improve quadriceps control
- 6 Restore independent ambulation

## Interventions

Range of Motion

Passive ROM (PROM) / Active ROM (AROM) / Active-Assistive ROM (AAROM) as tolerated; emphasize full passive extension

(✓ precautions for ROM limitations) Heel prop

Bike: Rocking for ROM (If Knee flexion (FLX) >115°, then full rotations)

**Exercises** 

Hamstring (HS)/Calf stretching

Ankle Pumps Leg Press (0-80)+ Quad Sets/Glute Sets\*+

Quad Iso (90 and 60)\*+ Step up+ Knee Extensions\*+ SLR (multi-plane)\*+

Hamstring Curls (✓ precautions)

Patella Mobilizations Manual

Extension with Overpressure Soft Tissue Mobilization (STM)/ Instrument-Assisted Soft Tissue

Mobilization (IASTM)

BFR+ **Modalities** 

Functional Electrical Stimulation\*

TKE (standing and prone)

Mini Squats+

Clam Shell

PROM/AAROM

Incision mobilization (once healed/sutured removed)

restriction (BFR)

Exercise list is not exhaustive

\* = exercise can be combined with

Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation (NMES)

+ = exercise can be combined with blood flow

Ice, Elevation and Compression Electromyographic (EMG) Biofeedback

## **Criteria to Progress to Phase 2**

1. Minimal Effusion

4. PROM 0-90°

2. Good Quad Control (Ability to perform SLR without quad lag) Good patella mobility

Full passive knee extension

Independent ambulation with crutches

## PHASE II (Weeks 2-6)

## Goals:

- 1. Progress towards full symmetrical ROM
- Normalize patella mobility 2.
- 3. Minimal effusion (Stroke Test 1+ or less)
- 4. Normal gait pattern

## Interventions

Range of

PROM/AAROM/AROM as tolerated; emphasize full passive extension (✓ precautions)

Motion Heel prop, prone hangs

Bike: Rocking for ROM (If Knee FLX >115°, then full rotations)

**Exercises** HS/Calf stretching

Lunges+

Quad Iso (90, 60, 40)\*+ Proprioceptive/neuro control Knee extensions\*+ Hamstring Curls (✓ precautions)

Squats+ Band walks Leg Press (0-80)+ Calf raises Step up/down (forward, lateral)+ Bike (cardio)

Integrated dual task activities

Manual Patella Mobilizations

Extension with Overpressure

STM/IASTM

PROM/AAROM

Incision mobilization (once healed/sutured removed)

**Modalities** RFR +

Functional Flectrical Stimulation\*

Ice, Elevation and Compression Electromyographic (EMG) Biofeedback

## **Criteria to Progress to Phase 3**

\*Criteria supersedes time for progression to next phase

Exercise list is not exhaustive

\* = exercise can be combined with NMES

+ = exercise can be combined with BFR

- 1. AROM 0-125°
- Minimal Effusion (Stroke Test 1+ or less)
- Normal Gait without assistive device (AD)
- Demonstrate ability to ascend 8" stairs w/ good knee translation
- 5. Single limb stand for 30 seconds (involved LE)
- Perform 10 SLR without lag
- Lateral step down 1-4" stair (without LE valgus)
- Quad strength 60% or > compared to contralateral side

#### PHASE III (Weeks 6-10) Goals: 1. Improve quadriceps strength / eccentric control 4. Protect patella-femoral joint Improve lower extremity flexibility 2. Reciprocal stair negotiation Improve ADL endurance 6. Continue to improve ROM if not equal to contralateral (priority!) Interventions **Exercises** Bike/Elliptical for cardio Band walks Knee extensions Single Leg Strengthening Exercise list is not exhaustive Squats Leg Press Deadlift Squats May continue to incorporate BFR Lunges Deadlifts Core strengthening Leg Press Step up/down (forward, lateral) Integrated dual task activities Criteria to Progress to Phase 4 \*Criteria supersedes time for progression to next phase 5. Single limb stand with 60 degree knee flexion for 30 seconds 1. ROM is within normal limits (WNL) of contralateral limb 2. Ability to descend 8" stairs with good leg control and without pain

PHASE IV (Weeks 10-16)

6.

Pain-free exercise

Trace effusion

## Goals:

- 1. Continue to improve quadriceps strength / eccentric control
- Normalize flexibility and ROM

4. Box Drop Test from 6" stair

No reactive swelling > 12 hours after increased activity 3.

Lateral step down from 6-8" stair with good control

Prepare for return to run program (Goal to introduce running at 12-16 weeks)

		Interventions	
Exercises		Continue all exercises from Phase 3	
	Bike/Elliptical for cardio	Initiate Low Level Plyometrics when appropriate	Lunges
	Knee extensions	Leg Press	Core strengthening
	Squats	Step up/down (forward, lateral)	Integrated dual task activities
	Deadlift	Single Leg Strengthening	Proprioceptive/neuro control
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### Criteria to Progress to Phase 5

\*Criteria supersedes time for progression to next phase

- ROM is WNL of contralateral limb
- Ability to descend 8" stairs with good leg control and without pain 2.
- Lateral step down from 6-8" stair with good control
- Box Drop Test from 6" stair
- Quad strength 70-80% compared to contralateral side
  - \*Must complete isokinetic or HH dynamometer at 3 months\*

R	Running Initiation Criteria			
□ Me	☐ Met Criteria to Progress to Phase 4			
Alter-G Initiation Criteria	Initiation Symmetry Index - LSI) ≥60%			
Linear Jogging Criteria	<ul> <li>□ Met above Alter-G Initiation Criteria</li> <li>□ ‡LE LSI ≥70% Q:Q   HS:HS</li> <li>□ 30 split jumps w/o LOB</li> <li>□ Metronome Step Down: 80BPM, w/ knee flexion to 50 deg for 30 sec</li> </ul>			
(See A	(See Appendix B Phased Running Progression)			
‡Strength Testing Options in order of preference:  1. Isokinetic dynamometer (Must complete @ 6&9 mos.)  2. Handheld dynamometer  3. OKC Knee Extension (EXT)/FLX machine (EXT 90-45° and				

full ROM)

Low Level Plyometrics						
Exercise	Sets	Foot contacts per set	Total foot contacts			
Two-leg hops: in place	3	30	90			
Two-leg hops: forward/backward	3	30	90			
Two-leg hops: side to side	3	30	90			
One-leg hops: in place	3	20	60			
One-leg hops: forward/backward	3	20	60			
One-leg hops: side to side	3	20	60			
One-leg broad hop	4	5	20			
Total 22 470						
Rest Intervals: Between sets: 90 seconds   Between exercises: 3 minutes						

## **Criteria to Complete Low-Level Plyometric Routine:**

- Patient able to perform 3 sessions within 7-day time without any increase in baseline pain, swelling or soreness

Sprinting Initiation Criteria				
	☐ Completed Phased Running Progression			
	‡LE LSI <u>&gt;</u> 70% Q:Q   HS:HS			
	☐ Hop Testing LSI ≥70%			
	(See Appendix C Return to Sprinting)			

#### Phase V (Weeks 16-24) Goals: 1. Symptom-free running Normalize jumping/landing mechanics No swelling with increased activity level Maximize strength and flexibility to meet functional demands **Interventions** Cont. aggressive strengthening **Exercises** Continue running protocol Low-level sport-specific drills Low velocity and low impact drills Squats Prepare for high-level plyometrics Deadlifts Change of direction exercises and agility drills Lunges Continue integrated dual task activities Leg Press Criteria to Progress to Phase 6 \*Criteria supersedes time for progression to next phase 1. Symptom-free running 2. Hop test > 75% limb symmetry 3. Completion of Return to Sport (RTS) testing battery \*Must complete isokinetic dynamometer at 6 months\* Quad strength 85%+ compared to contralateral side \*Perform Return to Sport Testing if progressing to Phase 6 Phase VI (Months 6+) Goals: 1. Lack apprehension with sports specific movements 2. Return to prior level function 3. Pass return to play testing / MD clearance Interventions **Exercises** Advance cardio training (specific to sport) Cont. aggressive strengthening Squats Reactive motor control drills Deadlifts Low- to high-level plyometrics (see criteria) Lunges Low- to high-level sport-specific drills Leg Press **Criteria for Discharge** 1. Pass return to sport testing (see specifics below) 2. Flexibility to accepted levels of sport performance \*Must complete isokinetic dynamometer at 9 months\* 3. Independent with strength and conditioning program \*Perform Return to Sport Testing at 9 months No Kinesiophobia Able to complete sport-specific tasks with good motor control/movement patterns (consider high speed and dual 5. **Return to Sport/Activity Criteria** High-Level Plyometric Initiation Criteria ☐ Pass ALL running 'Linear Jogging Criteria' □ 0/10 pain with all activity ☐ Quad strength 85%+ compared to contralateral side Clinical Assessment ☐ No active effusion ☐ Squat 60% Body Weight 5 reps / 5 seconds ☐ Knee ROM: FLX & EXT ±2° of contralateral limb ☐ No Kinesiophobia ☐ No swelling or issues with low-level plyometrics ☐ International Knee Documentation Committee (IKDC) > **Subjective Assessment** Gender Predicted Norm ☐ ACL—RSI Questionnaire >65% **Return to Practice Criteria** ☐ ‡LE Strength Symmetry (LSI) >90% Non-contact individual drills ☐ ‡LE Strength HS:Q >75% Female |>65% Male ☐ Quad strength 80%+ compared to contralateral side ☐ Passed ACL RTS Testing - Composite score >90% LSI **Functional Performance** ☐ No pain, swelling, or issues with running (See Appendix D - ACL RTS testing Form) Testing ☐ No pain, swelling, or issues with plyometrics and agility Recommend combination testing of strength, agility and drills in clinic power according to available resources/clinic set Non-contact team drills ☐ Quad strength 85%+ compared to contralateral side *‡Strength Testing Options in order of preference:* ☐ Hop Test 80%+ limb symmetry 1. Isokinetic dynamometer (must be completed at 6 and 9 months) 2. Handheld Dynamometer ☐ No Kinesiophobia 3. Open kinetic chain (OKC) Knee EXT/FLX machine



# Appendix A Phased Alter G Progression

Name:	*if post-op, patient has met specific Alter-G initiation criteria: [	
	,	_

Week	BW	Walk Pace	Time	Jog Pace	Time	Total Time	Goal
1a	60%	Walk 3.0-3.3mph	1 min	Jog 5.0-7.0mph	1 min	5 bouts or 1	Find comfortable jog
						mile	pace
1b	60 – 65%	Walk 3.0-3.5mph	1 min	Jog 5.0-7.0mph	1-2 mins	5 bouts or 1	Increase jog time
						mile	
2a	70%	Walk 3.0- 3.5mph	1 min	Jog 5.0-7.0mph	1-2 mins	5 bouts or 1	Increase body weight
						mile	
2b	70 - 75%	Walk 3.0-3.5mph	1 min	Jog 5.0-7.0mph	1-3 mins	5-8 bouts or	Progress distance
						1.5 miles	
3a	80%	Walk 3.0-3.5mph	1 min	Jog 5.0–7.0mph	1-2 mins	5 bouts or 1	Increase body weight
						mile	
3b	80 - 85%	Walk 3.0-3.5mph	1 min	Jog 5.0–8.0mph	1-3 mins	5-8 bouts or	Increase jog speed
						1.5 miles	
4a	90%	Walk 3.0-3.5mph	1 min	Jog 5.0–8.0mph	1-3 mins	1-2 miles	Normal running gait
							pattern
4b	90%	Walk 3.0-3.5mph	1 min	Jog 5.0-8.0mph	2-5 mins	1-2 miles	Increase jog time
							during bouts

## \*\* Running not to be done on back-to-back days \*\*

## **Alter G Protocol Soreness Rules:**

- If MAJOR pain/soreness/edema after the prior run, or during warm-up, DO NOT run that day and drop down 1 level at the next therapy session.
- If pain/soreness during workout, drop down 1 level for the run that day.
- If minor pain/soreness after the prior workout, stay at the same level for the run that session.
- If NO pain/soreness/edema during or after the prior run, progress per protocol

<sup>\*\*</sup> A treadmill incline of 3-5 degrees is recommended if it improved running mechanics in the athlete \*\*



## Appendix B

## **Phased Running Progression**

Name:	*If post-op, patient has met specific criteria to begin running program: $\square$	П
	, p p, p	_

## **Dynamic Warm up**

- Double Leg Squats x 10 reps
- 2) Single Leg Squats x 5-10 reps
- Single Leg RDL x 5-10 reps
- Single Leg Heel Rise x 10 reps (each side)
- Lateral Band Walks x 10 reps (each side)
- Plank x 30 seconds (each side)

#### Option 1 A) Treadmill B) Track Alternate 0.1 mile walk / 0.1 mile jog - 2 miles Level 1 Jog straights / walk curves - 2 miles Alternate 0.1 mile walk / 0.2 mile jog – 2 miles Level 2 Jog straights / jog 1 curve every other lap – 2 miles Level 3 Alternate 0.1 mile walk / 0.3 mile jog – 2 miles Jog straights / jog 1 curve every lap - 2 miles Alternate 0.1 mile walk / 0.4 mile jog - 2 miles Level 4 Fast walk 1.75 laps / walk curve - 2 miles Level 5 Jog 2 miles Jog 2 miles Increase workout to 2.5 miles Increase workout to 2.5 miles Level 6 Level 7 Increase workout to 3 miles Increase workout to 3 miles Level 8 Alternate between running / jogging every 0.25 Increase speed on straights / jog curves Instructions Soreness Rules

- Mandatory 2 days rest between workouts for first 2
- Do not advance more than 2 levels per week
- Two days rest mandatory between levels 1, 2 and 3
- One day rest mandatory between levels 4-8

- If sore during warm-up, take 2 days off and drop down
- If sore during workout, take 1 day off and drop down 1
- If sore after workout, stay at same level

#### Option 2 **Time Based** Walk Run Repetitions Days Phase 1 2-3 4 minutes 1 minute 3-6 Phase 2 3-6 2-3 3 minutes 2 minutes Phase 3 3-6 2-3 2 minutes 3 minutes Phase 4 1 minute 4 minutes 3-6 2-3 Phase 5 30 minutes 1 3

## <u>Instructions</u>

- The runner is to take at least one day off in between running days
- The runner can progress to next phase once they are able to complete 6 reps of the run time without increased pain or swelling
- Do not progress phases if one of the following occurs:
  - Sharp pain during run, pain that worsens as patient continues running, pain is so severe that it causes patient to alter gait
- After completion of phase 5, increase weekly mileage by 10-30%

This Clinical Guideline may need to be modified to meet the needs of a specific patient. The model should not replace clinical judgement



# Appendix C Return to Sprinting

Ma	*If you have no continued been much an arific political to be asia. Considering Durantum of	٦.
Name:	*If post-op, patient has met specific criteria to begin Sprinting Program:	
varrie.	if post op, patient has met specific enteria to begin sprinting i rogiam.	_

The below program should be performed on alternating days. Progression/regression should be based on soreness and effusion as well as the athlete's ability to complete specified work/rest ratios.

**Stage 1**Initiation Criteria: Completion of Phased Running Progression, Strength Testing LSI ≥70% Q:Q | HS:HS, Hop Testing LSI ≥70%, no effusion

	50% Intensity (1:3 work to rest ratio)					
	Objective: Build work capacity for anaerobic conditioning/endurance					
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4			
20 yd x 3 untimed	20 yd x 4 untimed	20 yd x 3	20 yd x 3			
40 yd x 2 untimed	40 yd x 3 untimed	40 yd x 4	40 yd x 4			
60 yd x 2 untimed	60 yd x 2 untimed	60 yd x 2	60 yd x 2			
80 yd x 2 untimed	80 yd x 2 untimed	80 yd x 2	80 yd x 2			
100 yd x 1 untimed	100 yd x 1 untimed	100 yd x 1	100 yd x 2			
80 yd x 2 untimed	80 yd x 2 untimed	80 yd x 2	80 yd x 1			
60 yd x 2 untimed	60 yd x 2 untimed	60 yd x 2	60 yd x 2			
40 yd x 2 untimed	40 yd x 3 untimed	40 yd x 4	40 yd x 4			
20 yd x 3 untimed	20 yd x 4 untimed	20 yd x 3	20 yd x 3			
19 runs @ 940 yds	19 runs @ 1060 yds	23 runs @ 1100 yds	23 runs @ 1120 yds			

**Stage 2**Initiation Criteria: Completion of Stage 1, Strength Testing LSI ≥80% Q:Q | HS:HS, Hop Testing LSI ≥80%, full passive flexion restored

	75% Intensity (1:5	work to rest ratio)	
Objective	e: Speed Development, improve to	echnique and build repeated sprir	nt ability
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
20 yd x 3	20 yd x 3	20 yd x 2	20 yd x 2
40 yd x 2	40 yd x 2	40 yd x 2	40 yd x 2
60 yd x 2	60 yd x 1	60 yd x 1	60 yd x 2
80 yd x 1	80 yd x 1	80 yd x 1	80 yd x 1
100 yd x 1	100 yd x 1	100 yd x 1	60 yd x 2
80 yd x 1	80 yd x 1	80 yd x 1	40 yd x 2
60 yd x 2	60 yd x 1	60 yd x 1	20 yd x 2
40 yd x 2	40 yd x 2	40 yd x 2	
20 yd x 3	20 yd x 3	20 yd x 2	
17 runs @ 780 yds	15 runs @ 660 yds	13 runs @ 620 yds	13 runs @ 560 yds

**Stage 3** *Initiation Criteria: Completion of Stage 2, Strength Testing LSI ≥90% Q:Q | HS:HS, Hop Testing LSI ≥90%, no effusion or pain* 

	90-100% Intensity (1:7	7 work to rest ratio)	
Objective: Achiev	re maximum effort. Work:Rest ratio	should replicate sports deman	ds in step 3 and 4
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4
20 yd x 6	10 yd x 3	10 yd x 3	10 yd x 2
40 yd x 2	20 yd x 4	20 yd x 3	20 yd x 3
60 yd x 1	40 yd x 2	30 yd x 2	30 yd x 2
40 yd x 2	60 yd x 1	40 yd x 2	40 yd x 1
20 yd x 6	40 yd x 2	60 yd x 1	60 yd x 1
10 yd x 3	30 yd x 1	30 yd x 2	40 yd x 1
	20 yd x 4	20 yd x 3	30 yd x 2
	10 yd x 2	10 yd x 3	20 yd x 3
**Full subjective recovery	**Full subjective recovery		10 yd x 2
20 runs @ 490 yds	19 runs @ 460 yds	19 runs @ 440 yds	17 runs @ 420 yds

This Clinical Guideline may need to be modified to meet the needs of a specific patient.

The model should not replace clinical judgement

Information taken from:

Criteria-Based Return to Springing Progression Following Lower Extremity Injury: https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7134353/



# Appendix D

## **ACL Return to Sport Testing (ACL-RSI)**

Name:	Date of Test:					Weeks Post-op:					
MR#:											
		2) 3) 4)	<ol> <li>Completed rehabilitation program – Understands Home Exercise Program (HEP)</li> <li>Knee ROM: Flexion &amp; extension ±2° of contralateral limb</li> <li>Pain &lt;2/10 with all activity for testing; 0/10 for RTS</li> </ol>								
<b>KDC Score:</b> * ≥ 70 for Practice, ≥ 90 for	RTS				<b>ACL-RS</b> * ≥ 65 for		onnaire:				
EV Balanca Tast							D	VEC NC			
LE Y-Balance Test	n:_hi					Pass: YES NO  Difference* Limb Length: (ASIS to med mal)					
Antorior	Left	,	/	Right	/	1	Difference	LII			
Anterior	/			/	/	/			Left	Right	
Posteromedial	/			/		/					
Posterolateral	/	/	/	/	/	/					
Composite Score <sup>^</sup> B trials, record maximal rea	1										
Functional Hop Tes	ting	Uninvolved Side					Pass: YES NO Involved Side LSI				
Single Limb Hop (cm)		1	Uninvol	ved Side 3	Avg	1	Involv 2	ed Side 3	Avg	LSI	
Single Limb Hop (citi)			-	3	Avg	1	2	,	Avg		
Triple Hop (cm)		1	2	3	Avg	1	2	3	Avg		
Crossover Hop (cm)		1	2	3	Avg	1	2	3	Avg		
*LSI difference < 10% to pa	ss										
Side Hop Test RigI .SI ≥90% to pass	nt:		Left:	LSI:_		_	<u>Pas</u>	s: YES NC	<u>)</u>		
Γ Agility Drill							Pas	s: YES NC	)		
Trial 1/2	2/3		Best	<u> </u>							
/	/										
* < 11 seconds to pass											
Landing Error Scori	<b>n:</b> Score:					<u>Pas</u>	Pass: YES NO				
Strength Testing (Is	okinetic	or HH	וח								
oti eligui restilig (is	OKITIECIC	01 1111	<i></i>								
Canada nakiana (CIN)	000/ +		LIC.O.	750/ 01, 650/		*Is alsin atis	must be some	latad for full	daaran sal*		
Considerations: LSI ≥	90% to pass		HS:Q	>75% ♀ >65%	o O'	risokinetic	must be comp	netea for full	clearance!"		
Able to complete s <sub>l</sub>	ort-spe	cific dı	rills in clini	c with go	od motoi	r control/	movement	patterns (	full speed	): 🗌	
Assessment:											
		_									
Cleared for Return	to Sport?	? YES	NO								
Name <sup>.</sup>				Date:							

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