

A close-up photograph of a female scientist with glasses and blue gloves, wearing a light blue lab coat, working in a laboratory. She is holding a pipette and looking down at her work. The background is slightly blurred, showing laboratory equipment. The image has a purple and blue color scheme.

# MIDLANDS ENGINE

## **MIDLANDS ENGINE HEALTH** **Focus on: Clinical Trials**

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SEPTEMBER 2021

# At the heart of cutting-edge clinical research in health and life sciences

The Midlands has an international reputation for excellence in delivering clinical research with the power to change lives by improving outcomes for patients. We are proud to host hugely significant, world class health research and clinical trials infrastructure in numerous disease areas that support the nation's health, including:

- Cancer
- Cardiovascular
- Diabetes
- Gastrointestinal
- Infection
- Musculoskeletal
- Paediatric health
- Primary care
- Renal disorders
- Reproductive health
- Respiratory
- Trauma

Our region's outstanding clinical investigators and research infrastructure create an exceptional environment for the rapid development and delivery of clinical trials, with significant expertise in: designing complex and adaptive trials; usability and testing; innovative engagement of patients and industry; and high quality trial delivery.

## **Midlands Engine Health centres of excellence in clinical research**

- Extensive National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) infrastructure including: multiple Clinical Research Facilities; three Biomedical Research Centres; two Applied Research Collaboratives and two Clinical Research Networks
- World's largest precision medicine cancer Clinical Trials Unit, in Birmingham
- UK's largest Clinical Trials Unit, in Warwick
- Two Academic Health Science Networks, collaborating with health and care, the public, industry and research to discover, test and disseminate health innovations
- Midlands and Wales Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre which enables adaptive trials to be delivered at national and international scales
- Leicester Patient Recruitment Centre which is dedicated to delivering commercial research

- National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine at Loughborough University, delivering education, research and clinical services in sport, exercise and physical activity
- Centre for Ethnic Health Research which works to reduce ethnic health inequalities

## **Midlands Health Alliance**

Formed in 2019 to bring together our region's world-leading health research infrastructure, MHA works: to ensure a step change in the quality and quantity of clinical biomedical research in the Midlands; and to connect industry experts with investigators within the NHS to develop collaborative opportunities.

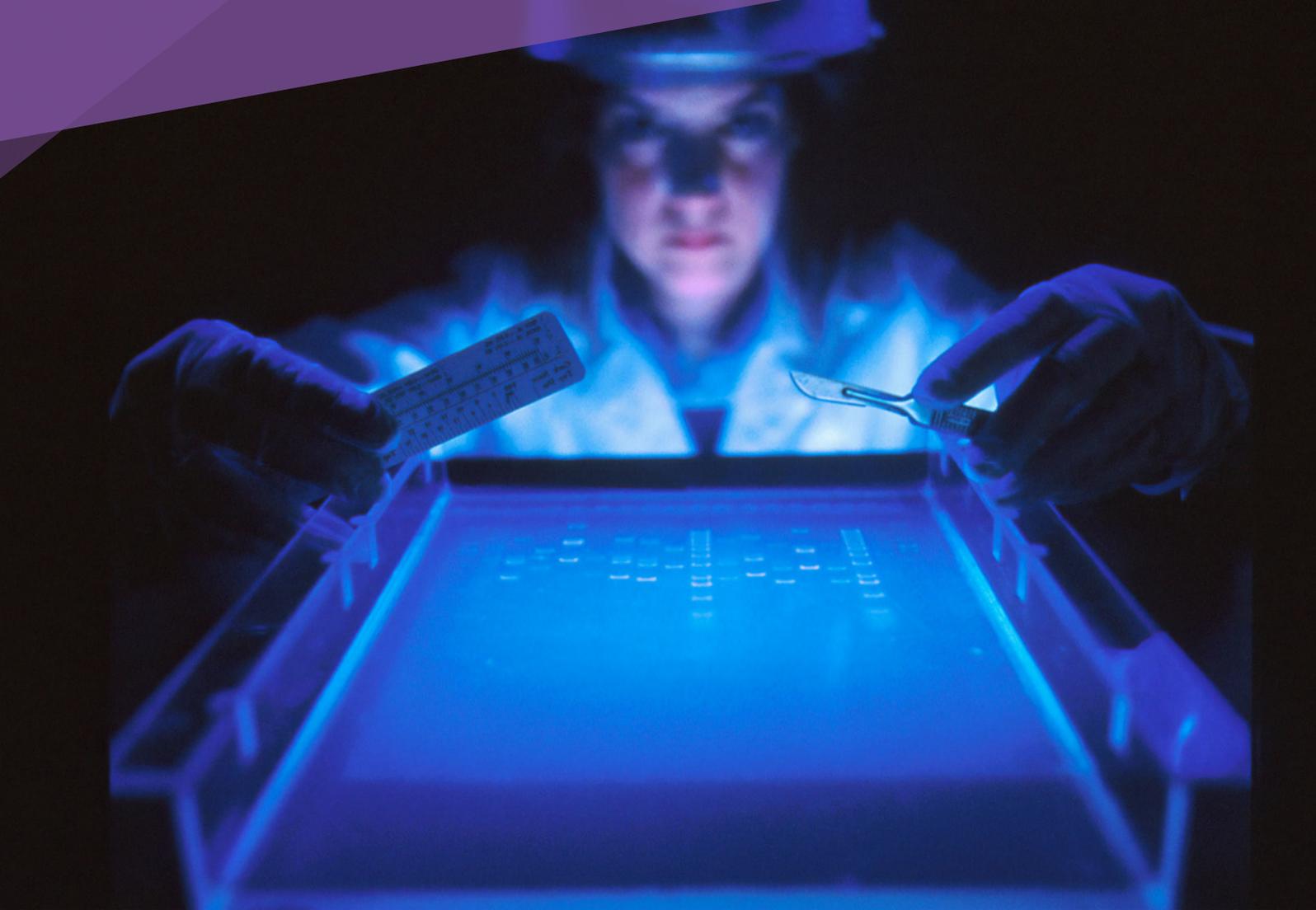
## **Midlands NHS infrastructure**

The Midlands hosts an impressive NHS infrastructure with 41 Clinical Commissioning Groups, 52 NHS Trusts and 17 Acute Trusts, including four of the largest Trusts in the UK - in Birmingham, Coventry and Warwickshire, Leicester and Nottingham.

## **Midlands Engine clinical research at a glance**

- A stable, ethnically diverse population of over 10 million citizens, the ideal testbed for global health and multimorbidity interventions
- 10,551 publications and 40,151 citations from Midlands partnerships in 2020
- 193,180 patients recruited to clinical trials in 2020/2021
- £47.7m awarded for 75 NIHR-funded projects in 2020
- Two highly effective research collaborations: Midlands Innovation Health and Midlands Health Alliance
- Two of the three largest NHS Trusts in the UK
- Extensive NIHR infrastructure, working with around 300 companies worldwide, including 138 pharmaceutical companies, 157 SMEs and 46 biotech/MedTech companies in 18 disease areas, in 21 countries





**Professor Philip Newsome, Director, Midlands & Wales Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre and Deputy Director, NIHR Birmingham BRC**

"To best serve the region's patients we have established a mission to

translate cutting edge scientific discoveries through to the clinic by working with expert teams of trials methodologists, operational leaders and bespoke design. We now have world-leading expertise in areas such as Bayesian design, use and evaluation of biomarkers and patient-reported outcomes."



**Professor Melanie Davies, NIHR Senior Investigator Emeritus**

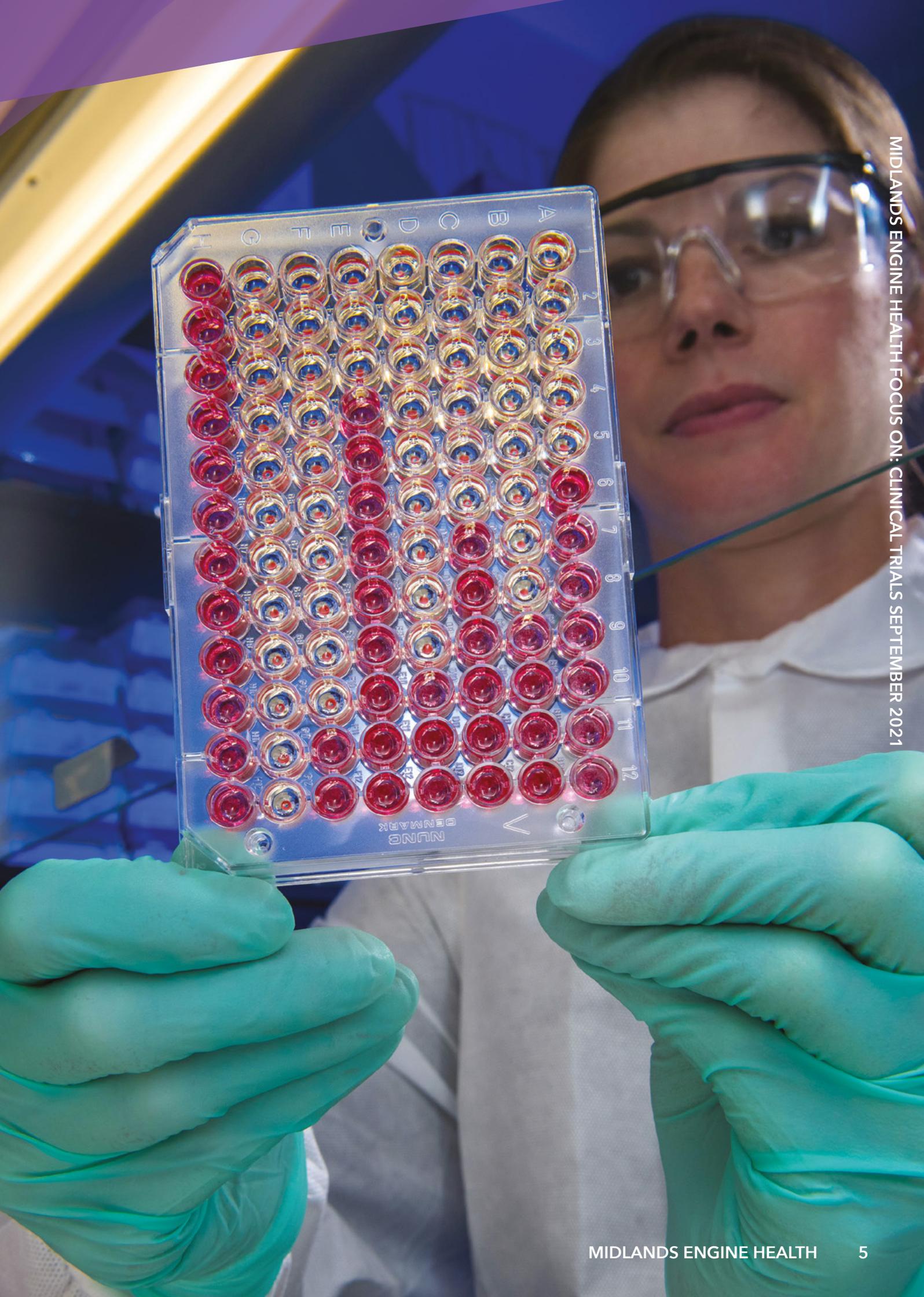
"Embedding research in our NHS and utilising the infrastructure as efficiently as we can has enabled the Midlands to achieve fantastic reviews in clinical trials which

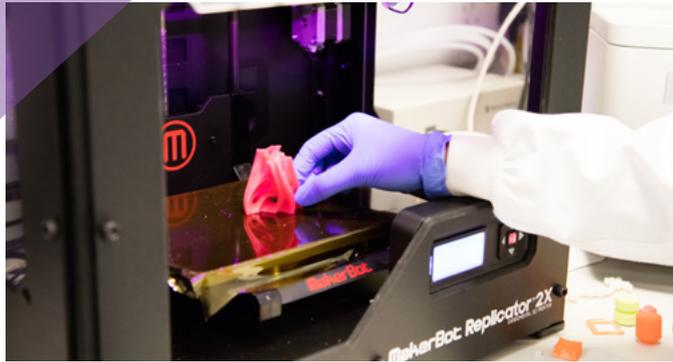
rather improved outcomes for patients and saved lives. Whilst we are not blessed with the same resources as in the Golden Triangle, we have a large and diverse population, we have amongst the best recruitment to clinical trials and some of the most prolific and world-leading principal investigators, particularly in long-term conditions in the Midlands".

**Professor Matthew Brookes, Clinical Director, CRN West Midlands**

"The Midlands has a strong track record in delivering clinically important and impactful studies. The contribution of clinical research has been more recently highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Across the NIHR Clinical Research Network West Midlands we are funding and supporting infrastructure to develop new chief investigators, and the CRN Research Scholars are successfully working with our regional Clinical Trials Units, obtaining almost £10 million funding over the last two years."







The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) / Wellcome Trust **Birmingham Clinical Research Facility (CRF)** is an experimental medicine facility originally funded by the Wellcome Trust in 2001 as one of the founding and largest national facility of its kind.

The Birmingham CRF works collaboratively through Birmingham Health Partners, a strategic alliance of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Birmingham. This Partnership brings together clinical, scientific and academic excellence across an integrated medical and life sciences campus.

Part of the NIHR, **Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs)** are a collaboration between world-leading universities and NHS organisations that connect academics and clinicians with the aim of translating lab-based scientific breakthroughs into treatments, diagnostics and medical technologies.

The Midlands hosts three BRCs in Birmingham, Leicester and Nottingham - which support researchers of the highest calibre to develop innovative ideas that can attract investment from other funders. They deliver substantial growth in research excellence, capacity and reach, and undertake research across a range of disease and therapeutic areas.

**The Patient Recruitment Centre** in Leicester is a research centre dedicated to setting up and delivering late phase commercial clinical trials in the NHS at pace at scale.

By attracting more commercial research, Patient Recruitment Centres (PRCs) increase opportunities for patients to access cutting-edge treatment and therapies that may not yet be widely available through the NHS. Hosted by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, PRC: Leicester is situated in one of the most diverse, multicultural cities in the UK and works with partners and stakeholders across the Midlands to ensure as many people as possible are given an opportunity to take part in research.



With a strong track record in delivering research excellence, **Warwick Clinical Trials Unit (WCTU)** hosts the largest portfolio of studies for the NIHR in the UK and is one of seven Clinical Trials Units (CTUs) in the Midlands. CTUs are specialist units set up to design, conduct, analyse and publish clinical trials and other well-designed studies. WCTU works closely with regional NHS partners to deliver a portfolio of internationally renowned research. It is a recipient of the International Clinical Trial of the Year Award and accredited by UKCRC. WCTU also works in partnership with specialist teams with expertise in clinical trial operations, computer system development, quality assurance and research governance.



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**Midlands Engine Health** is a partnership between industry, the NHS, academia and the public sector; all working together to powerfully promote our region's extensive capabilities in health and life sciences. Our board aims to represent all of the Midlands health and life science sector.



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The Midlands Engine is a coalition of Councils, Combined Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), Universities and businesses across the region, actively working with Government to build a collective identity, to enable us to present the Midlands as a competitive and compelling offer that is attractive at home and overseas. Copyright © 2021 The Midlands Engine, All rights reserved.

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