



SAFETY NETTING

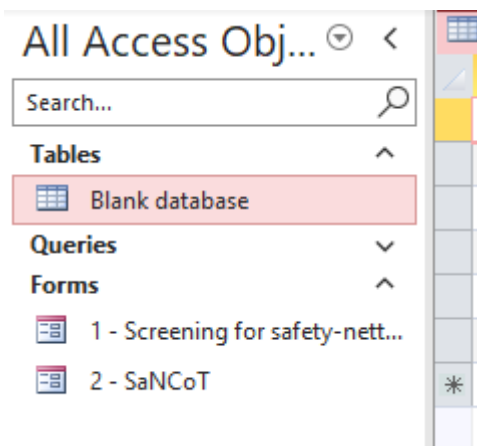
Safety-Netting Coding Tool (SaNCoT)^{1, 2}

Medical Notes Edition. Version 2.1

Screening for safety-netting advice

<u>Inclusion Criteria</u>	<u>Exclusion Criteria</u>
<p>Safety-netting advice: <i>“Information shared with a patient or their carer designed to help them identify the need to <u>seek further medical help</u> if their condition fails to improve, changes or if they have concerns about their health.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Edwards et al. 2019¹</i></p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most will be conditional (if x) + course of action (do y) • If (x) happens then do (y) where (y) = seeking some form of medical help • Often documented as “y if x” e.g. “review if not settling”, “Call 999 if chest pains” <p>Examples</p> <p>Conditional (if x) + course of action (do y)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If gets chest pain call 999” • “Inb in 2 weeks for review” • Explained other options x, y, z AND if fails reconsult or similar • If x then for investigation that Dr has to request “if cough still there in 2 weeks for CXR” <p>Course of action + conditional “do y if x”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Review inb 2 weeks” • “See sos” / “review sos” / “See inb” <p>Conditional warning only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Red flags highlighted” /” advice re: red flags to look out for” • “Safety-netting advice given” 	<p>Planned (non-conditional follow-up) – occurs regardless of what happens to patient,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “rv in 2 weeks” <p>Contingent on an investigation result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “If anaemic then for 2ww” <p>Contingent self-care including delayed prescriptions (key difference is patient not advised to seek further MEDICAL help, instead to self care)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “inb tomorrow start abx (delayed rx given)” • “If rash returns use cream again” • “if ankle swelling from amlodipine then stop” <p>Contingent admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “added to repeat rx so can request prn” <p>‘Advice’ without further instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Advice re: s/e”
<p>Abbreviations: inb = if not better, s/e = side effects, rv = review, SOS = save our souls (meaning depends on context), prn = as required</p>	

Double click on the 'Blank database' to see the data fields



Import for your data into these fields if applicable

Field Name	Data Type
consultation_id	Number
safety_netting_advice_text	Long Text
clinical_codes	Short Text
history	Long Text
examination	Long Text
diagnosis	Long Text
treatment	Long Text
prescriptions	Short Text
contact_type	Short Text

These fields are generated in the coding tool

Field Name	Data Type
exclude	Yes/No
no_of_probs	Number
fu_none	Yes/No
fu_ix_only	Yes/No
fu_owngp	Yes/No
fu_ooh	Yes/No
fu_sec_care	Yes/No
fu_other	Short Text
sna_prob_tx	Short Text
sna_format	Short Text
sna_no_symptoms	Number
sna_sx1	Short Text
sna_sx2	Short Text
sna_sx3	Short Text
sna_sx4	Short Text
sna_sx5	Short Text
sna_sx6	Short Text
sna_sx7	Short Text
sna_sx8	Short Text
sna_sx9	Short Text
sna_sx10+	Short Text
sna_specific	Short Text
sna_action_none	Yes/No
sna_action_notspecified	Yes/No
sna_action_owngp	Yes/No
sna_action_ooh	Yes/No
sna_action_999	Yes/No
sna_action_other	Short Text
sna_time_fixed	Yes/No
sna_time_urgent	Yes/No
sna_written	Yes/No
pil	Yes/No
coding_comments	Short Text
screening_comments	Short Text
icpc_prob	Short Text

Loading Screening Form

Double click on '1 – Screening for safety-netting advice' form to load the screening data input form

All Access Obj... <

Search...


Tables

- Blank database

Queries

Forms

- 1 - Screening for safety-nett...**
- 2 - SaNCoT



Screening for safety-netting advice

Consultation ID

Exclude?

History	Example patient symptoms e.g. chest pain
Examination	Observations NAD, heart sounds normal, chest clear
Diagnosis	MSK Chest pain
Treatment	Reassured MSK pain. If develops SOB, worsening of pain / more unwell for further review
Prescriptions	
Clinical Codes	

	Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
	<p>Safety-netting advice: "Information shared with a patient or their carer designed to help them identify the need to <u>seek further medical help</u> if their condition fails to improve, changes or if they have concerns about their health." <i>Edwards et al. 2019^d</i></p> <p>Key points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most will be conditional (if x) + course of action (do y) If (x) happens then do (y) where (y) = seeking some form of medical help Often documented as "y if x" e.g. "review if not settling", "Call 999 if chest pains" <p>Examples</p> <p>Conditional (if x) + course of action (do y)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "If gets chest pain call 999" "Inb in 2 weeks for review" Explained other options x, y, z AND if fails reconsult or similar If x then for investigation that Dr has to request "if cough still there in 2 weeks for CXR" <p>Course of action + conditional "do y if x"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Review inb 2 weeks" "See sos" / "review sos" / "See inb" <p>Conditional warning only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Red flags highlighted" / "advice re: red flags to look out for" "Safety-netting advice given" <p><small>Abbreviations: inb = if not better, s/e = side effects, rv = review, SOS = save our souls (meaning depends on context), prn = as required</small></p>	<p>Planned (non-conditional follow-up) – occurs regardless of what happens to patient,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "rv in 2 weeks" <p>Contingent on an investigation result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "If anaemic then for 2ww" <p>Contingent self-care including delayed prescriptions (key difference is patient not advised to seek further MEDICAL help, instead to self care)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "inb tomorrow start abx (delayed rx given)" "If rash returns use cream again" "If ankle swelling from amlodipine then stop" <p>Contingent admin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "added to repeat rx so can request prn" <p>'Advice' without further instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Advice re: s/e"

0.1 No of problems	1. Safety-netting advice	2. Follow-up				
<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	If develops SOB, worsening of pain / more unwell for further review	Ix (e.g. bloods)	Own GP	OOH / WIC	Secondary Care	Other
0.2 ICPC-3 Problems		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
LD99 Other specified diagnoses and diseases of musculoskeletal system						
0.3 Screening comments	<input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/>	Patient Leaflet	<input type="checkbox"/>			

Screening & all consultation coding

All consultations should be screened for safety-netting advice, unconditional follow-up, and if a patient information leaflet was issued. Also record the number of problems within the consultation and code them using the International Classification of Primary Care 3rd Edition (ICPC-3) browser.

0.1 No of problems	1. Safety-netting advice
<input type="text" value="1"/>	If develops SOB, worsening of pain / more unwell for further review
0.2 ICPC-3 Problems	
LD99 Other specified diagnoses and diseases of musculoskeletal system	
0.3 Screening comments	

Consultation ID

Exclude?

Patient Leaflet

Level 0 – Problem Administration Codes

Title	Code	Data Type	Explanation	Example
Exclude	Yes/No	Tick-box	If you want to exclude any consultation tick this box	Consultation with no text Consultation with data corruption errors
0.1 Number of problems How many problems are documented in this consultation?	1 - 10	Number (integer)	How many problems are assessed in this consultation as coded using the Complex Consultation Tool? ³ A problem is defined as the answer to the question ‘what is wrong?’	2
0.2 ICPC-3 Problem codes	ICPC-3 Code	Short-text	Insert ICPC-3 Code ⁴ Use diagnostic categories where available.	Chest pain thought to be caused by angina = KD66.02 Stable angina Shortness of breath caused by COPD = RD68 Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema
0.3 Screening comments (optional)	optional	Free-text	Optional code to add comments about screening	Difficult case – requires second reviewer / discussion
Patient Leaflet	Yes/No	Tick-box	Is there evidence a patient information leaflet or link to information website was given to patient.	<i>“PIL on constipation issued”, “leaflet on bronchiolitis”</i>

1. Safety-netting advice

If develops SOB, worsening of pain / more unwell for further review

Level 1 – Safety-netting screening				
Title	Codes	Data Type	Explanation	Example
1. Safety-netting advice Text of safety-netting advice present in the notes		Long text	copy and paste text of safety-netting advice If this box is empty this will be recorded as no safety-netting advice present in the consultation Note, in previous editions we had an additional tick box for safety-netting present/absent but this was potentially introducing errors where people forgot to tick the box. The preferred method for counting if SNA present is to check if this code has text in it or not.	“rv inb” “If develops SOB, worsening of pain / more unwell for further review” “see gp inb 3 days”

2. Follow-up				
Ix (e.g. bloods)	Own GP	OOH / WIC	Secondary Care	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>

Level 2 – Follow-up codes				
Title	Code	Data Type	Explanation	Example
<p>2. Follow-up</p> <p>Is there evidence in this consultation that there is follow-up arranged for this problem?</p> <p>Follow-up (unlike safety-netting advice) is an unconditional review of a problem.</p>	None			Leave all tick boxes blank
	Ix (e.g. bloods)	Tick-box	Investigations only – not seeing a person	<i>‘Drop off urine mane for MC+S’ “await repeat K+ level”</i>
	Own GP	Tick-box	Follow up arrangements with own GP practice. This many include different members of the primary care MDT e.g. nurse, physio etc – not jut GPs	<i>“fu GP” “see gp next week”</i>
	OOH / WIC	Tick-box	Follow up arrangements with the out of hours services / walk in centres (WIC)	<i>“attend WIC mane for f2f review”</i>
	Secondary Care	Tick-box	Follow up arrangements with secondary care services	<i>“patient to attend eye hospital mane” “patient to contact cardiologist and update them”</i>
	Other	Free-text	Follow up arrangements with any services not listed above	<i>“district nurses arranged to change dressing” “call midwives mane”</i>

Safety-netting advice coding

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- Blank database

Queries

Forms

- 1 - Screening for safety-nett...
- 2 - SaNCoT**

Safety-netting advice coding only

0.1 No of Problems

Exclude?

sandooh_id

SNA present?

Safety-netting advice text

If develops SOB, worsening of pain / more unwell for further review

3.1 Applicable to	3.2 Format	3.3 Symptoms / Conditionals (do not code exact repeats twice)	3.4 Specific	3.5 SNA ACTIONS ADVISED	3.7 Written SNA?										
3.1 Does the SNA apply to the problem or treatment / management?	3.2 What is the format of the safety netting advice?	Number of DIFFERENT symptoms	3.4 Specific or generic SNA?	<table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>Not specified "medical help" "rv inb" "seek help"</td> <td>GP Practice</td> <td>OOH</td> <td>Ring 999 / A+E</td> <td>Other (freetext)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	Not specified "medical help" "rv inb" "seek help"	GP Practice	OOH	Ring 999 / A+E	Other (freetext)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not specified "medical help" "rv inb" "seek help"	GP Practice	OOH	Ring 999 / A+E	Other (freetext)											
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>											
Problem only Treatment / plan only Both (often generic)	Symptom / conditional + action (if x do y) Symptom / conditional ONLY (red flags highlighted)	Symptom 1: SOB Symptom 2: worsening of pain Symptom 3: more unwell	Generic only (G) Specific (S) Both G&S	<table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <th colspan="2">3.6 Timescale of action</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Fixed time / day</td> <td>Urgent action</td> </tr> <tr> <td>e.g. inb 2/7 ring gp "Call back tomorrow"</td> <td>e.g. "call back stat" "ring 999 immediately"</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>	3.6 Timescale of action		Fixed time / day	Urgent action	e.g. inb 2/7 ring gp "Call back tomorrow"	e.g. "call back stat" "ring 999 immediately"	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
3.6 Timescale of action															
Fixed time / day	Urgent action														
e.g. inb 2/7 ring gp "Call back tomorrow"	e.g. "call back stat" "ring 999 immediately"														
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>														
EXAMPLES Problem only - it gets worse - does not get better - feeling more unwell Treatment / Plan Only - not heard about referral - rv if not tolerating statin - if indigestion from ibuprofen stop and rv - new fever related to immunosuppressant therapy Both (often generic symp) - see if any problems / issues - rv inb or s/e from tablets	EXAMPLES Symptom / conditional + action - Typically if X happens then do Y (where Y = seeking some form of medical help) - If not better then see GP - See SOS, see inb (= if not better), rv SOS - Advised on red flags and need to rv urgently Symptom / conditional ONLY - Safety-netting advice given - Worsening advice given - Advised on red flags to look out for - Red flags highlighted - explained as long as no further bleeding no further reviews required If combination of both over 2 different sentences	Symptom 4: <input type="text"/> Symptom 5: <input type="text"/> Symptom 6: <input type="text"/> Symptom 7: <input type="text"/> Symptom 8: <input type="text"/> Symptom 9: <input type="text"/> Symptom 10+: <input type="text"/>	Generic Symptoms - worse / unwell, - concerns / changes - problems / issues - new symptoms - worsening signs - if needs / wants rv - inb NO TIMEFRAME Specific Symptoms - chest pain, - - breathless / SOB - wheezy - red flags - inb IN SET TIME PERIOD	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient Leaflet										
Coding comments															

3.1 Applicable to

3.1 Does the SNA apply to the problem or treatment / management?

Problem only
 Treatment / plan only
Both (often generic)

Title	Options	Data Type	Explanation	Example
3.1 Applicable to Does safety-netting advice apply to the problem or a treatment / management plan for the problem?	Problem	List: choose one option	Safety-netting advice applies to the problem directly. Code treatment failure here.	<i>"see inb in 2 weeks"</i> Common conditionals that just apply to the problem include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptoms persisting • Worsening • Feeling more unwell
	Treatment / Plan only	List: choose one option	Advice only refers to treatment / management plan e.g. warning of side effects AND to seek medical help OR if not heard about a referral Do not include just discussions about side effects of medication if no indication to seek medical help.	<i>"if indigestion from ibuprofen stop and rv ?trial opioid" (note if patient just told to stop then NOT coded as safety-netting advice as no direction to seek medical help)</i> <i>"rv if not tolerating s/e from statin"</i> <i>"must seek urgent medical help if develops fever" e.g. in patient newly starting immunosuppressant therapy / chemotherapy</i> <i>"if not heard about 2ww then must call hospital number"</i>
	Both	List: choose one option	Generic and unclear if for treatment or problem or separate advice for both included.	<i>"see if any problems"</i> <i>"rv inb or s/e from tablets"</i>

3.2 Format

3.2 What is the format of the safety netting advice?

Symptom / conditional + action (if x do y)

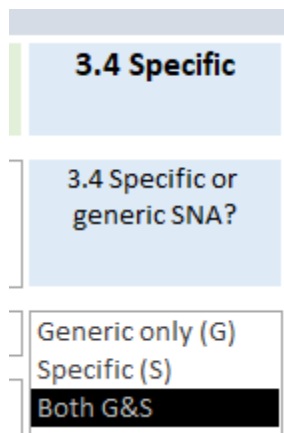
Symptom / conditional ONLY (red flags highlighted)

Title	Options	Data Type	Explanation	Example
3.2 Format What is the format of the safety-netting advice?	Symptom / conditional + action	List: choose one option	Conditional (if x) + course of action (do y) If (x) happens then do (y) (y) = seeking some form of medical help Can be documented as course of action + conditional "do y if x"	Conditional (if x) + course of action (do y) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "If gets chest pain call 999" "Inb in 2 weeks for review" Explained other options x, y, z AND if fails reconsult or similar If x then for investigation that Dr has to request "if cough still there in 2 weeks for CXR" Course of action + conditional "do y if x" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Review inb 2 weeks" "See sos" / "review sos" / "See inb"
	Symptom / conditional ONLY	List: choose one option	Documents that gave safety-netting advice or the red flags for patient to look out for but does not write any form of action / where they should seek help	<i>"Red flags highlighted"</i> <i>"advice re: red flags to look out for"</i> <i>"Safety-netting advice given"</i> <i>"explained as long as no further bleeding no further reviews required"</i>

**3.3 Symptoms / Conditionals
(do not code exact repeats twice)**

Number of DIFFERENT symptoms	<input type="text" value="3"/>
Symptom 1	<input type="text" value="SOB"/>
Symptom 2	<input type="text" value="worsening of pain"/>
Symptom 3	<input type="text" value="more unwell"/>

Title	Options	Data Type	Explanation	Example
3.3 Symptoms / Conditionals How many DIFFERENT (do not code duplicates) symptoms / conditionals are documented in the SNA?	0-20	Number (integer)	Count how many symptoms / conditions are listed. Individual examples: 'rash', 'wheeze', 'chest pain', 'any problems', 'changes', 'concerns' Code specific symptom persisting as one condition e.g. " <i>If the <u>rectal bleeding is persisting see me again</u></i> " = 1 condition.	<i>"If becomes <u>unwell</u>, e.g. <u>feverish</u>, <u>SOB</u>, <u>wheezy</u> then for rv" = 4</i>
	1 per box, if 10 or more separate with ;	Free text	Insert free text of conditions / symptoms. Separate each element with Note number of conditions should match with 6.1	Unwell Feverish SOB Wheezy <i>If 10 or more: unwell; fever; wheezy</i>



Title	Options	Data Type	Explanation	Example
3.4 Specific Do the conditionals meet the criteria for being classified as generic or specific?	Generic only	List: choose one option	Conditionals that are not specific to one problem (see examples). To code as generic ALL conditionals must fit generic criteria. Symptoms persist / treatment failure <u>without a time course set.</u>	<i>“Worse”, “worsening”</i> (includes if ‘X’ gets worse where X is the presenting symptom) <i>“Any concerns”, “problems”, “issues”, “worried” “anything changes”, “Want to talk further”,</i> Wellness deteriorates e.g. <i>“feel unwell”</i> <i>“If it’s not getting better for review”</i>
	Specific only	List: choose one option	Any <u>new</u> symptom that is not listed as generic above Symptoms persist / treatment failure <u>with time course explained.</u>	<i>“Chest pains”, “Shortness of breath”, “wheezy”</i> <i>“If it’s not getting better <u>in 2 weeks</u> for review”</i>
	Both	List: choose one option	Both Generic and specific SNA	<i>“See if not better in 2 weeks or worse”</i>

**3.5 SNA
ACTIONS ADVISED**

Not specified "medical help" "rv inb" "seek help"	GP Practice	OOH	Ring 999 / A+E	Other (freetext)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Title	Options	Data Type	Explanation	Example
3.5 Action advised Where is the patient advised to seek help? (Tick all that apply)	None	Leave all blank	No action advised e.g. conditional only.	<i>"safety-netting advice given"</i> <i>"red flags to look out for highlighted"</i>
	Not specified	Tick-box	Location not specific	<i>"rv inb"</i> <i>"see inb"</i>
	GP Practice	Tick-box	Contact patients own GP practice.	<i>"see gp inb"</i>
	Contact out of hours service (OOH) / 111	Tick-box	Contact out of hours services. Includes 111 / Out of hours GP crisis team and Samaritans or similar.	<i>"if worse over weekend contact 111"</i>
	999 / A&E	Tick-box	Ring 999, go straight to A&E.	<i>"If chest pain >5min must call 999"</i>
	Other	Free-text	Anything that does not fit into above categories	<i>"see pharmacist inb"</i> <i>"call midwife if still unwell tomorrow"</i> <i>"call consultant inb tomorrow"</i>

3.6 Timescale of action

Fixed time / day

Urgent action

e.g. inb 2/7 ring gp
"Call back tomorrow"

e.g. "call back stat"
"ring 999 immediately"



Title	Options	Data Type	Explanation	Example
3.6 Timescale of action	Not specified	Leave all blank	No timescale of action specified. Note: unspecified times such as sooner coded here with exception of urgent action.	<i>"rv inb"</i>
What is the timescale of the action advised?	Named day / fixed time period	Tick-box	Return on named day or fixed period of time e.g. by the end of the week.	<i>"see inb in 2 weeks"</i>
	Immediate / urgent	Tick-box	Contact medical help straight away / urgently.	<i>"see stat if unwell"</i> <i>"see inb in 2 weeks or stat if unwell"</i>

3.7 Written SNA?

Patient Leaflet

Title	Options	Data Type	Explanation	Example
3.7 Written safety-netting advice present Is the patient given written safety-netting advice?	No	Leave all blank	No evidence patient was given written safety-netting advice leaflet	
	Yes / clear evidence	Tick-box	Evidence of written safety-netting advice. Given Patient information leaflet (PIL) and documents that PIL contains red flags / safety-netting advice. Evidence that texted patient safety-netting advice Documents that gave written advice	<i>"highlighted red flags as per PIL"</i> <i>"highlighted red flags as per patient info leaflet given to patient"</i> <i>texted patient safety-netting advice</i> <i>"wrote down red flags to patient to look out for"</i>
	Generic PIL / Unclear	Tick-box	Just documents that given PIL e.g. automated insertion when leaflet printed (see example)	<i>"given PIL on back pain"</i> <i>Mentor topic printed: Tennis Elbow,</i>
Patient Leaflet (note should come up in screening section)	Yes/No	Tick-box	Is there evidence a patient information leaflet or link to information website was given to patient.	<i>"PIL on constipation issued",</i> <i>"leaflet on bronchiolitis"</i>

References

1. Edwards PJ, Ridd MJ, Sanderson E, Barnes RK. Development of a tool for coding safety-netting behaviours in primary care: a mixed-methods study using existing UK consultation recordings. *Br J Gen Pract*. 2019;69(689):e869. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3399/bjgp19X706589>
2. Edwards PJ, Ridd MJ, Sanderson E, Barnes RK. Safety-Netting Coding Tool. 2019. Available from: <http://www.bris.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare/resources/safety-netting-coding-tool/> (accessed 31/07/2023)
3. Procter S, Stewart K, Reeves D, et al. Complex consultations in primary care: a tool for assessing the range of health problems and issues addressed in general practice consultations. *BMC Fam Pract*. 2014;15(1):105. DOI: 10.1186/1471-2296-15-105
4. van Boven K, Napel HT. English ICPC-3 Browser. 2023. Available from: <https://browser.icpc-3.info/> (accessed 27/09/2023)

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