# Improving Documentation Efficiency through the Utilization of EPIC SmartPhrases

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## BACKGROUND

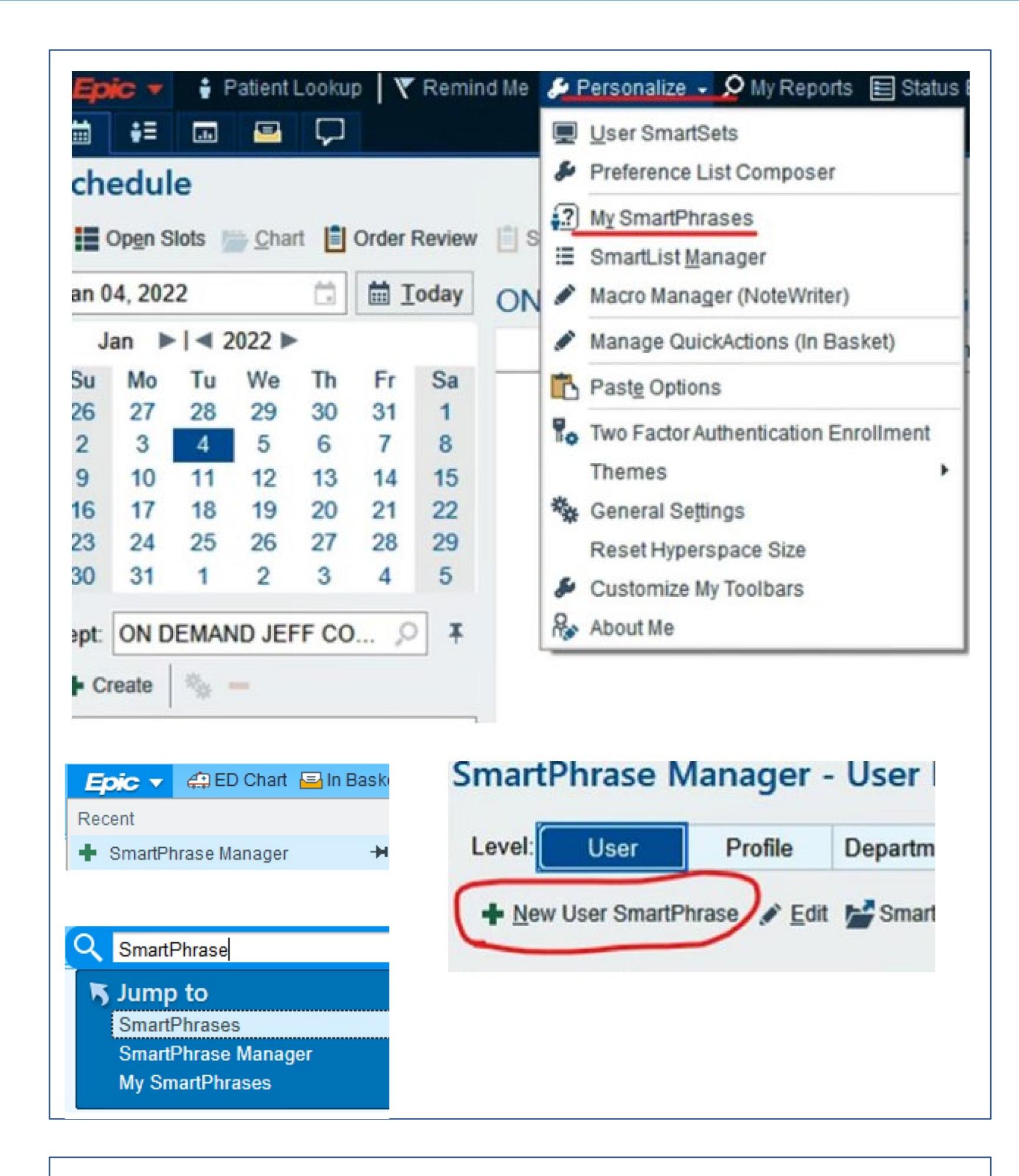
In healthcare settings, efficient documentation is crucial for maintaining accurate patient records and ensuring quality care. However, charting can be time-consuming, reducing the amount of time available for direct patient care. EPIC, a widely used electronic health record (EHR) system, offers various tools to improve workflow efficiency. Among these tools is the use of **SmartPhrases**, which allows healthcare providers to create and use customizable text shortcuts. This feature has the potential to significantly reduce the time spent on documentation by streamlining note creation and data entry that is frequently needed when charting on patient(s), whether it be for admission, emergencies or discharge.

#### PURPOSE

This poster aims to provide recommendations on using **SmartPhrases** in EPIC to improve documentation efficiency.

## METHODS

To improve documentation efficiency, healthcare providers were trained on how to effectively create and use **SmartPhrases** in EPIC. This included demonstrations of how to customize frequently used phrases and embed patient information directly into notes. Following training, providers integrated **SmartPhrases** into their daily charting process. Efficiency was assessed informally through feedback on reduced charting time and ease of use.



Examples of some **Smartphrases** that can be used to pull information without leaving current page or note:

Previou	ıs History
@PMH@	D.
@PSH@	-
@SOCH	
@FAMH	
@ALLEF	<del>-</del>
@MEDS	CONDENSED@
@=	
Physica	al Exam
@VSHO	
1 6 10 10	
Results	
@EDLAI	_
∐ @FDRA	DIOLOGY@

#### RESULTS

- Reduced average documentation time per patient
- Increased use of customized SmartPhrases by healthcare providers
- Improved user satisfaction with charting efficiency
- More time available for direct patient care and other tasks
- Positive feedback on the ease of integrating
  SmartPhrases into daily workflow

# CONCLUSIONS

Integrating **SmartPhrases** into EPIC significantly enhances documentation efficiency, enabling healthcare providers to streamline their workflow and focus more on patient care. This approach not only addresses common documentation challenges but also supports clinician well-being by reducing time spent on repetitive tasks. Embracing such technology is vital for improving patient outcomes and enhancing overall satisfaction in healthcare settings (Sinsky et al., 2020; American Academy of Family Physicians, 2022).

# REFERENCES

American Academy of Family Physicians. (2022). *Ten EHR strategies for efficient documentation*. Retrieved from <a href="https://www.aafp.org/pubs/fpm/blogs/inpractice/entry/starter-list-macros.html&#8203;:contentReference[oaicite:2]{index=2}.</a>

Sinsky, C., Colligan, L., Li, L., Prgomet, M., Reynolds, S., Goeders, L., ... & Blike, G. (2020). Are specific elements of electronic health record use associated with clinician burnout more than others? *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, 27(4), 495-502. https://doi.org/10.1093/jamia/ocz223​:contentReference[oaicite:1]{index=1}.

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