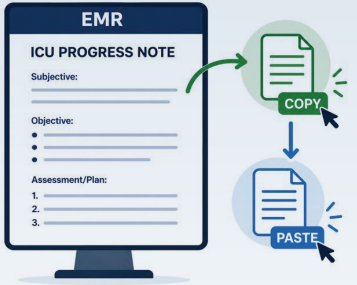
What Are the Prevalence and Evolution of Copy-Paste Practices in ICU Daily Progress Notes, and How Do They Affect Documentation Errors?

STUDY DESIGN

- A retrospective study from a single academic center medical ICU from 2017 to 2022.
- A total of 60,127 notes written by residents and attendings were analyzed for composition trends.
- Temporal trends in note length, content sources, and errors were evaluated.

RESULTS



DOCUMENTATION ERRORS (RESIDENT NOTES)

TOTAL ERRORS IDENTIFIED

521

total errors

Trends in ICU Progress Notes Over the Study Period

RESIDENT NOTES		ATTENDING NOTES	
Note Length	↑ 21% increase	Note Length	↑ 2% increase
Copied Content	↑ 34% increase	Copied Content	No change
Direct Content	↓ 52% decrease		
Templated Content	↓ 9% decrease		

- Higher daily resident note volume was positively correlated with longer notes and more copied and templated content.

The findings of this study suggest that copy-paste practices in ICU daily progress notes contribute to note bloat and introduce a mechanism for the creation and propagation of documentation errors in the ICU.

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