

Litera.ai

Replit Completion Guide

Tactical steps and AI prompts to harden the demo into a production-ready pilot environment

February 2026 | Startup Garage

1. Environment & Secrets Configuration

Before any code changes, lock down the environment. Every step below happens in the Replit Secrets panel (lock icon in the left sidebar, or Tools > Secrets).

1.1 Required Secrets

Open Replit > Tools > Secrets. Add each of the following key-value pairs. If a key already exists, verify its value matches what is listed below.

`SESSION_SECRET` [CRITICAL]

Generate: run `node -e "console.log(require('crypto').randomBytes(64).toString('hex'))"` in the Replit shell, paste the output as the value

`DATABASE_URL` [Verify]

Should already exist if you provisioned PostgreSQL via Replit. Verify it starts with `postgresql://`

`OPENAI_API_KEY` [Required]

Your OpenAI API key starting with `sk-`. Get from [platform.openai.com](https://platform.openai.com/api-keys) > API Keys

`RESEND_API_KEY` [Required]

Your Resend API key for transactional email. Get from resend.com/api-keys

`RESEND_FROM_EMAIL` [Required]

The verified sender email for Resend, e.g. `care@yourdomain.com` or `onboarding@resend.dev` for testing

`NODE_ENV` [Set on deploy]

Set to `production` for deployed app. Set to `development` when actively coding.

`REPLIT_DEV_DOMAIN` [Auto-set]

Replit auto-sets this. Verify it exists. Used for generating patient portal links in emails.

Replit AI Prompt — Verify Secrets

Check that my Replit environment has the following secrets configured: `SESSION_SECRET`, `DATABASE_URL`, `OPENAI_API_KEY`, `RESEND_API_KEY`, `RESEND_FROM_EMAIL`. In `server/index.ts`, remove the hardcoded fallback for `SESSION_SECRET` so the app fails fast if the secret is missing. The line to change is: `secret: process.env.SESSION_SECRET || "litera-ai-secret-`

key-change-in-production" — remove the || fallback so it becomes: secret:
process.env.SESSION_SECRET (and add a startup check that throws if it is undefined).

2. Database Persistence & Seed Script Safety

2.1 Problem

The current seed.ts script deletes ALL data every time it runs (lines 18-22 call db.delete on every table). If seed.ts is in the startup flow or accidentally run in production, all patient data is destroyed.

2.2 Steps

1. Open server/seed.ts. Add an environment variable guard at the top of the seed() function, immediately after the console.log:

```
if (process.env.ALLOW_SEED !== 'true') { console.error('SEED BLOCKED: Set ALLOW_SEED=true to run. This destroys all data.');
```

2. Verify that your package.json scripts do NOT include seed in the start or build commands. The seed should only run via an explicit npm run seed or tsx server/seed.ts command.

3. Run Drizzle migrations on every deploy to apply schema changes without touching data:

```
npx drizzle-kit push
```

4. After the pilot starts and real patient data exists, add a database backup step. In the Replit shell, you can dump the database with:

```
pg_dump $DATABASE_URL > backup_$(date +%Y%m%d).sql
```

Replit AI Prompt — Seed Safety

In server/seed.ts, add an environment variable guard so the seed script only runs when ALLOW_SEED=true is set. At the top of the seed() function, before any db.delete calls, add: if (process.env.ALLOW_SEED !== 'true') { console.error('SEED BLOCKED. Set ALLOW_SEED=true. This destroys all data.');

3. Authentication Hardening

3.1 Session Security

The session configuration in `server/index.ts` needs the following changes for production:

1. Remove the hardcoded session secret fallback (covered in Section 1).
2. Set `cookie.secure` dynamically based on the environment. Replit serves over HTTPS in production, so `secure: true` is correct for deploys. But during local dev, you may need `secure: false`.
3. Add `sameSite: 'lax'` to the cookie config to prevent CSRF attacks.
4. Add a session cleanup job or set a reasonable `maxAge`. Currently set to 24 hours, which is fine for a pilot.

Replit AI Prompt — Session Hardening

In `server/index.ts`, update the session configuration: 1) Remove the fallback string for `SESSION_SECRET` and throw an error if `process.env.SESSION_SECRET` is undefined. 2) Add `sameSite: 'lax'` to the cookie configuration. 3) Make sure `cookie.secure` is set to `true` when `NODE_ENV` is 'production' and `false` otherwise. 4) Add `httpOnly: true` (already present, verify). The resulting cookie config should look like: `cookie: { secure: process.env.NODE_ENV === 'production', httpOnly: true, sameSite: 'lax', maxAge: 24 * 60 * 60 * 1000 }`

3.2 Frontend Session Expiration Handling

When a session expires, the API returns 401. The frontend should catch this and redirect to the login page instead of showing a broken state.

Replit AI Prompt — Session Expiry Redirect

In `client/src/lib/queryClient.ts` (or wherever `apiRequest` is defined), add a global response interceptor: if any API response returns status 401, redirect the browser to `/login` using `window.location.href = '/login'`. This should apply to all API calls made through the query client. Also, in the React Query `defaultOptions`, add an `onError` handler that checks for 401 status and redirects. This ensures that if a clinician or admin's session expires mid-use, they see the login page rather than a broken dashboard.

3.3 Password Management

The seed script creates demo users with password123. For the pilot, you need to either:

- Option A: Create a password change endpoint so clinicians and admins can set their own passwords after first login.
- Option B: Pre-set strong passwords in the seed script and distribute them securely to the care team.

Option B is fine for a small pilot. Option A is better if you want the care team to manage their own credentials.

Replit AI Prompt — Password Change (Option A)

Add a POST `/api/auth/change-password` endpoint in `server/routes.ts` that requires authentication (use the `requireAuth` middleware). It should accept `{ currentPassword, newPassword }` in the request body. Validate that `currentPassword` matches the stored hash using `bcrypt.compare`, then hash the `newPassword` with `bcrypt.hash` (salt rounds 10) and update the user record. Return 200 on success, 401 if current password is wrong. Also add a simple password change form accessible from the clinician and admin dashboards (a modal or settings page).

4. Clinician ↔ Admin Dashboard Sync

4.1 Current State

Both dashboards read from the same PostgreSQL database, so data is always consistent. The gap is that neither dashboard refreshes automatically when the other makes a change. A clinician sends a care plan, but the admin only sees it after a manual page refresh.

4.2 Solution: Polling (Pilot-Appropriate)

For a pilot with a small team, polling every 30 seconds is the right approach. WebSockets add complexity without meaningful benefit at this scale.

Replit AI Prompt — Auto-Refresh Dashboards

In both the clinician dashboard (client/src/pages/clinician-dashboard.tsx) and admin dashboard (client/src/pages/admin-dashboard.tsx), add automatic polling to the main data query. For the clinician dashboard, the useQuery for /api/care-plans should include refetchInterval: 30000 (30 seconds). For the admin dashboard, add the same to whatever queries fetch care plans and alerts. This ensures that when a clinician sends a care plan, the admin sees it within 30 seconds without a manual refresh, and vice versa. Also add refetchOnWindowFocus: true so the data refreshes immediately when a user switches back to the tab.

5. Email Delivery Setup

5.1 Resend Configuration

The app uses Resend for transactional email (sending care plan links and check-in reminders to patients). The following steps are required to get email actually delivering:

1. Create a Resend account at resend.com if you do not have one.
2. Navigate to resend.com/api-keys and create an API key. Copy it to the `RESEND_API_KEY` Replit secret.
3. For testing: Use the free `onboarding@resend.dev` sender. Emails can only be sent to the account owner's email address.
4. For pilot: Add and verify your own domain at resend.com/domains. This requires adding DNS records (SPF, DKIM, DMARC) to your domain provider. Resend provides the exact records.
5. Set `RESEND_FROM_EMAIL` in Replit secrets to the verified sender address.
6. Verify that `server/services/resend.ts` uses `process.env.RESEND_FROM_EMAIL` for the `from` field.

Replit AI Prompt — Verify Email Configuration

In `server/services/resend.ts` (or wherever `sendCarePlanEmail` and `sendCheckInEmail` are defined), verify that: 1) The Resend client is initialized with `process.env.RESEND_API_KEY`. 2) The 'from' field uses `process.env.RESEND_FROM_EMAIL`. 3) The patient portal URL uses `process.env.REPLIT_DEV_DOMAIN` to generate the correct base URL. 4) Add error logging that includes the Resend error response body, not just the error message. 5) If `RESEND_API_KEY` is not set, log a warning on startup rather than crashing.

6. Patient Portal Hardening

6.1 Patient Login Flow Verification

The patient login flow already exists in the codebase. The sequence is:

1. Patient receives email with a link: `https://{domain}/p/{accessToken}`
2. `patient-portal.tsx` renders at that route and asks for year of birth
3. Frontend calls `POST /api/patient/{token}/verify` with `{ yearOfBirth }`
4. Server validates YOB against the patient record, rate-limits to 3 attempts
5. On success, the care plan is displayed in the patient's preferred language

Verify this flow works end-to-end by testing with one of the seeded patients.

Replit AI Prompt — Patient Portal Audit

Review `client/src/pages/patient-portal.tsx` and verify the following: 1) The page shows a year-of-birth input and a submit button before displaying any care plan content. 2) On failed verification, show the number of remaining attempts and the error message from the API. 3) On lockout (429 response), show a clear message that the patient should try again in 15 minutes or contact their care team. 4) On successful verification, display the translated care plan content. 5) The check-in traffic light buttons (green/yellow/red) call `POST /api/patient/{token}/check-in` and show a confirmation. 6) The page is responsive and looks good on mobile screen widths (375px and 414px). If any of these are missing or broken, fix them.

6.2 Clinician Preview vs. Patient Portal Separation

Clinicians should be able to preview the patient portal without mutating data. The demo token system handles this.

Replit AI Prompt — Demo Token Preview Mode

Verify that the clinician 'View as Patient' button in `clinician-dashboard.tsx` works as follows: 1) It calls `POST /api/care-plans/{id}/demo-token` to get a time-limited demo token. 2) It opens the patient portal URL with a `?demo=1&demoToken={token}` query parameter. 3) In `patient-portal.tsx`, when `demo=1` is in the URL, the page skips the year-of-birth verification and instead validates the demo token via `POST /api/patient/{token}/validate-demo`. 4) In demo mode, check-in responses should NOT be saved to the database. Add a visual banner at the top of the page in demo mode that says 'Clinician Preview Mode — Actions are not saved.' If any of this is not implemented, implement it.

7. Check-In Reminder System

7.1 Current Architecture

The check-in system schedules a reminder 24 hours after a care plan is sent. The endpoint `POST /api/internal/send-pending-check-ins` finds all pending check-ins and sends reminder emails. However, this endpoint needs to be called by something — there is no automatic scheduler.

7.2 Options for the Pilot

- Option A (Simplest): Use Replit's built-in cron feature or UptimeRobot (free) to ping the endpoint every hour.
- Option B: Add a `setInterval` in `server/index.ts` that calls the check-in logic every hour. This is less reliable (resets if server restarts) but requires zero external setup.

Replit AI Prompt — Check-In Scheduler (Option B)

In `server/index.ts`, after the server starts listening, add a `setInterval` that calls the check-in sending logic every hour. Create a function called `sendPendingCheckIns()` that contains the same logic as the `POST /api/internal/send-pending-check-ins` route handler (extract the logic from `routes.ts` into a shared function in a new file `server/services/scheduler.ts`). Then in `index.ts`, call: `setInterval(sendPendingCheckIns, 60 * 60 * 1000)`; and also call it once on startup with a 30-second delay: `setTimeout(sendPendingCheckIns, 30000)`. Log when the scheduler runs and how many check-ins were sent.

8. Replit Deployment Checklist

When you are ready to deploy, follow this checklist in order:

1. Set all Replit Secrets

SESSION_SECRET, DATABASE_URL, OPENAI_API_KEY, RESEND_API_KEY, RESEND_FROM_EMAIL are all set. NODE_ENV is set to production.

2. Run database migrations

In the Replit shell: `npx drizzle-kit push`. Confirm no errors.

3. Seed initial users (one time only)

In the shell: `ALLOW_SEED=true npx tsx server/seed.ts`. This creates the clinician and admin accounts. You should only need to do this once.

4. Test login

Open the deployed URL. Log in as nurse / password123 and as admin / password123. Both should work.

5. Test email delivery

Upload a mock PDF, process it, and send it to your own email. Verify the email arrives with the correct portal link.

6. Test patient portal

Click the link from the email. Enter the year of birth. Verify the care plan displays correctly.

7. Deploy

In Replit, click the Deploy button (rocket icon). Select 'Reserved VM' for always-on hosting. Choose the smallest instance (pilot scale).

8. Verify deployed URL

The deployed app gets a .replit.app domain. Test the full flow on this URL.

9. Set up monitoring

Use UptimeRobot (free) to ping your deployed URL every 5 minutes and alert you if it goes down.