

Medieval Health

Key individuals:

John Arderne: famous English surgeon who, developed his own anaesthetic and achieved high levels of surgical success rates.

Galen: Greek physician and medical practitioner. His works were widely followed throughout the medieval period and the Church strongly discouraged any deviations from his work.

Hippocrates: Greek physician and medical practitioner. His Theory of the Four Humours was the basis of medical diagnoses and cures during the medieval period.

John Bradmore: Surgeon who famously saved the life of Henry V in 1403 when he was still a prince. Bradmore developed an ingenious method of extracting an arrow-head deep in the skull.



A medieval depiction of a birthing scene. Who do you think would have seen this? What effect would this picture have on women who had never given birth? Do you think the person who drew this was trying to depict reality?

You need to apply your knowledge in order to substantiate explanations to the following key questions:

Understand how medieval hospitals operated and their limitations

Assess the extent of change in medical care and health

Explain how relevant factors influenced change

Develop an understanding of the various remedies and treatments offered during the period.

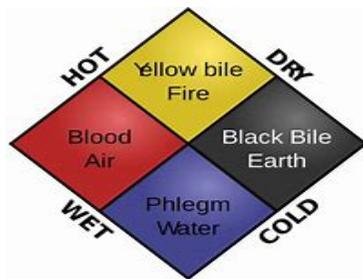
Important factors affecting change

Religion: Both Christianity and Islam greatly influenced the development of medicine during the Medieval period.

Role of the Individual: Individual genius and enquiry made little impact on the development of medicine as deviations from Church guidelines was discouraged.

War: War gave surgeons a rare and unique opportunity to develop their understanding of the human body, as well as improve their surgical skills.

Communication: Low levels of literacy and lack of printing technology throughout most of the medieval period meant that communication often hindered the development of medicine.



1000 - 1483

Medieval England

Norman - Angevin - Plantagenet

1500 - 1750

Early Modern England

Renaissance - Tudor - Stuart

1750 - 1900 Modern Britain

Industrial Revolution
Hannoverian

1900 - 2000

20th Century Britain

Great War - WWII - Cold War