

## Knowledge Organiser: Medicine 1500 - 1700

Key dates		Key characters	
1543	Vesalius publishes <i>On the Fabric of the Human Body</i> .	Thomas Sydenham	Believed that <b>diseases could be organised</b> into groups and not individual to the patient. He valued close <b>observation of symptoms</b> rather than relying on medical books to make a diagnosis. Also known as "the English Hippocrates".
1628	William Harvey proves that blood circulates around the body.	Vesalius	Author of one of the most influential <b>books on human anatomy</b> . He carried out many dissections on the bodies of executed criminals and discovered over 300 mistakes in Galen's original works on anatomy.
1660	First meeting of the Royal Society.	William Harvey	Discovered that <b>blood circulates around the body</b> rather than being made in the liver, as had been taught by Galen.
1665	Thomas Hooke develops powerful microscope.	Paracelsus	Rejected Galen's theory of the four humours. Used <b>chemical substances to treat illness</b> , for example, metal mercury for the treatment of syphilis.
1665	The Great Plague arrives in Britain.	Robert Hooke	An English scientist and head of experiments at the Royal Society. He developed a <b>powerful microscope</b> and published a book of images from his observations.
1676	Thomas Sydenham publishes <i>Observationes Medicae</i> .	Van Leeuwenhoek	A Dutch scientist who observed tiny "animalcules" under the microscope. This was the <b>first observation of bacteria</b> .

Key terminology	
<b>Alchemy</b>	An early form of <b>chemistry</b> . Alchemists tried to turn one material into another, mainly with metals.
<b>Anatomy</b>	The science of <b>understanding the structure</b> and make-up of the body.
<b>Dissection</b>	The <b>dismembering of a body</b> to study its anatomical structure.
<b>Iatrochemistry</b>	A way of treating disease using <b>chemical solutions</b> . Pioneered by Paracelsus.
<b>Renaissance</b>	The French word that means <b>rebirth</b> . The Medical Renaissance refers to a period in the 16 <sup>th</sup> and 17 <sup>th</sup> centuries when new ideas were beginning to influence medicine.
<b>The Royal Society</b>	A group of people who promote <b>scientific experiments</b> and the sharing of knowledge. The Society received a royal charter from Charles II which gave it more credibility.
<b>Secular</b>	<b>Not religious</b> ; not connected with spiritual beliefs.
<b>Syphilis</b>	A sexually transmitted <b>infection</b> , also known as the Great Pox. Can cause blindness, paralysis and madness.

### SUMMARY OF THE PERIOD

The Renaissance was a period of scientific discovery, with several philosophers and scientists coming up with new ideas. The printing press helped the sharing of these ideas across Europe and organisations like the Royal Society encouraged experimentation and the search for knowledge. The influence of the Church on medicine was reduced and many people now recognised that God did not send disease. There was a greater understanding of anatomy, thanks to Vesalius and Harvey, and most physicians, by the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, no longer believed in the theory of the four humours or in diagnosis using urine.

Despite all these changes, there was also a great deal of continuity. Ordinary people still believed in the four humours and miasma, and were slow to accept new ideas. While the practice of medicine did not change much at this time, ideas were starting to change. Therefore this period laid the foundations for changes in medicine to come.