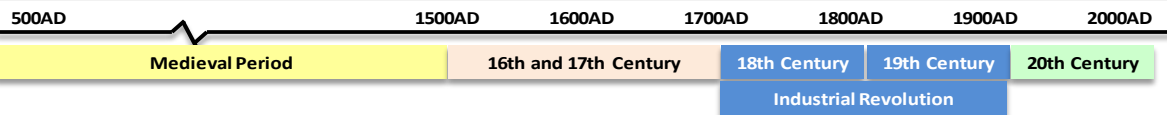


Knowledge Map: Development of Patient Care

Summary: This section of the medicine topic considers how patient care has developed and changed over time; it focuses particularly on the growth of hospitals and their changing function. The time periods examined are the medieval period, the 16th and 17th centuries, the 18th and 19th centuries, and the 20th century.



Medieval Period

Summary

The period is marked by a lack of medical knowledge which means there was little understanding of what caused disease or how to treat it. Therefore, with regards to patient care, the focus of many hospitals was not on the medical treatment of patients but making sure patients had accommodation and basic nursing. The hospitals were often very much linked to Church.

Key Knowledge

1	Christian Hospitals	Christian hospitals were set up, paid for and run by the Church. They looked after the poor and the sick. They did not treat sickness but aimed to make the patients as comfortable as possible. The staff were brothers and sisters in religious orders and offered basic nursing but main aim was to pray as the belief was that they were sick because they had sinned.
2	Leper Hospitals	Leprosy was a common incurable and contagious disease from the medieval period. Epidemics in the 12 th and 13 th centuries brought about the growth of specific leprosy hospitals. As it was seen as a punishment from God, victims were given lodging and food but no treatment. Leper hospitals were built outside the outskirts of town.
3	Almshouses	Almshouses are the medieval equivalent of a modern-day care home. They offered sheltered accommodation and basic nursing but no treatment. They did also offer shelter to widows with young children and travellers. Most were small and ran by a Priest.

16th and 17th Centuries

Summary

This period is marked by a change in how hospitals were run. Following the Reformation and Henry VIII's decision to close the monasteries, hospitals were no longer under the control of the Church. Many hospitals had to seek funding from alternative means and many hospitals were funded by Royal Charter - funded by the Monarchy. This period is also marked by the growth in hospitals across the country.

Key Knowledge

4	The Reformation and the Dissolution of the Monasteries	Henry VIII ordered the dissolution [ending] of the monasteries in the 1530s which had a dramatic impact upon patient care. The Church now ceased to be a supporter of hospitals and that role was now taken on by voluntary charities, town or city councils. They took control of almshouses. London petitioned the crown for money to create hospitals.
5	Growth of Royal Chartered Hospitals	When the crown gave money to London to create five hospitals it is the first time that a body not connected to the Church provided for medical institutions. These include some of London's still most famous and successful hospitals: St Bartholomew's Hospital, St Thomas' Hospital and Christ's Hospital.
6	Growth of Endowed Hospitals	The growth of secular [non-Church] supported hospitals continued outside of London as well. For example, in Norwich, once the monasteries were disbanded, local councillors petitioned the crown who gave funds to establish a hospital. All of these new endowed [given property] hospitals were focused on treating patients in some capacity.

Key Words and Definitions

Leper	A person suffering from leprosy (a contagious disease that affects the skin)
Alms	Money or food given to poor people
Reformation	The ending of the Catholic Church in England in the 16th Century and the establishment of the Church of England and Protestantism as the State religion
Dissolution	The action of formally ending or dismissing an assembly, partnership or official body
Royal Charter	A written grant by the monarch (involving money) to establish an official body (e.g. hospital)
Endowed	To give an income or property to (usually in death)
Philanthropist	A person who seeks to promote the welfare of others, especially by the generous donation of money
Welfare State	A system whereby the state undertakes to protect the health and well-being of its citizens, especially those in financial or social need, by means of grants, pensions, and other benefits

18th and 19th Centuries

Summary

This period is marked by the rise in scientific enquiry and its influence over medicine, illness and disease. It is also a period of growth in terms of industry and the finances of the country. Indeed, the Industrial Revolution saw many people make vast sums of money; many of which decided to put back into society. Many of these wealthy philanthropists chose the establishment of hospitals as a means to do this.

Key Knowledge

7	Growth of Privately Funded Hospitals	The 18 th Century saw the advancement of medical knowledge increase but also technology and wealth grow with the Industrial Revolution. This had a huge impact upon hospitals as many wealthy philanthropists wanted to donate money to the establishment of hospitals. Thomas Guy, is the most famous, who founded Guy's Hospital in 1724.
8	Growth of Specialist Hospitals	The 19 th Century saw the establishment of specialist hospitals: maternity care, orthopaedics, eyes, nose and throat (ENT). There was also specialist training centres established: Royal College of Surgeons, Westminster Medical School and Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.
9	Florence Nightingale	During the Crimean War (1854-56), nursing was changed forever when Nightingale took 38 of the best British nurses to Crimea. They were appalled by what they saw with thousands suffering cholera and typhoid due to the awful ward conditions. They immediately cleaned the wards, patients were washed regularly, given clean clothes and bedding. They separated patients according to their illness to stop diseases spreading. This had an immediate impact. The death rate dropped from 42 in every 100 patients to 2 in every 100. After 6 months, only 100 out of 1700 patients were confined to their bed. Through these reforms, Nightingale had laid the foundations for modern nursing.
10	Birth of Modern Nursing	Upon returning to Britain in 1856, Nightingale raised £50,000. Using this she set up the Nightingale School of Nursing at St Thomas' Hospital in London. She trained nurses to be essential parts of patient care and to work with doctors. This marked a big change in how nurses had been viewed prior to Nightingale's changes.

20th Century

Summary

This period is perhaps most marked by the government directly intervening in the care of the population. This is perhaps best epitomised by two key events: the establishment of the Welfare State in 1906 and the creation of the NHS in 1946. Both of these have seen patient care radically alter as a result. For the first time, the government took responsibility for the health and well-being of its citizens.

Key Knowledge

11	The Creation of the Welfare State	The early 20 th Century saw government attitudes to poverty change as the Liberal Party introduced a series of laws aimed at helping the poor, and in turn, improve their health. This included: Free School Meals Act (1906), the Old Age Pensions Act (1908) and the National Insurance Act (1911). All of these mark the foundations of the Welfare State.
12	The National Insurance Act of 1911	The National Insurance Acts of 1911 and 1912 were laws aimed at providing assistance to anyone who became unemployed or sick. The aim was to provide them with payments so they could continue to support their family during troubled times. It is still in operation today.
13	The Beveridge Report of 1942	The Beveridge Report marks a major moment in patient care. Written during the Second World War by William Beveridge, it identified five problems facing Britain. One of these was a "battle against disease" and advocated a new National Health Service to provide free health care to every citizen of the United Kingdom.
14	The Creation of the NHS in 1946	The National Health Service Act was passed in 1946 by a Labour government led by Clement Atlee. For the first time ever, every British citizen had the right to free medical treatment and all doctors, nurses, dentists, opticians and pharmacists were brought together to work for the NHS. It was to be government run and financed.