

Renaissance Treatments and Prevention overview



On a piece of A3 paper, you need to split it in half, one half for Treatments, one half for preventions.

Renaissance **Treatments**

Renaissance **Preventions**

As we go through this lesson, you're going to hear from some Renaissance characters who will tell you about treatments and preventions, your job is to note their ideas down with pictures for the illiterate people of the time! Eg...

*Idea 1: Transference -
you could transfer
your illness onto a
vegetable*





Renaissance *Treatments*

Important to note before looking into Renaissance Treatments...

We still believe that an imbalance in our humours causes illness, so our treatments still focus on rebalancing them! Disappointing we know!...





Renaissance *Treatments*

Change or Continuity?

Idea 1: Transference

One can simply transfer your illness or disease from you, to something else!

How might this work?

Simple! You might rub an onion on your warts and your warts will transfer to the onion!





Renaissance *Treatments*

Idea 2: Herbal Remedies

Change or Continuity?

We rely heavily on herbal remedies, they've worked for years! We do have this new idea though involving colours of the herbs.

What do you think this idea is?

Obvious, if your symptom is red, like smallpox, we'll treat you with a red cure, like drinking red wine, eating red foods and wearing red clothes! If your symptom is yellow, like jaundice, then a yellow herb such as radish or saffron.





Renaissance *Treatments*

Idea 2: Herbal Remedies

While I'm here, you should probably know that we do have a load of new herbs that the Middle Ages didn't have because of our exploration of the New World!

What is the New World?

These new herbs are opening a whole load of new opportunities. We now have sarsaparilla to treat the Great Pox (Syphilis), Ipecac for treating Dysentery, Cinchona bark from Peru to treat Malaria, a favourite of Sydenham!



Other new arrivals:
Tea, coffee, nutmeg,
cinnamon and tobacco

Change or Continuity?



Renaissance *Treatments*

Idea 3: *Chemical Cures*

Medical chemistry is all the rage these days, scientists are working on chemical treatments instead of bleeding and herbs! We use a lot of mercury and antimony these days, as it promotes sweating!

Why is sweating so important?

Simple! It cools the body down! Same idea as purging really, we think it removes the illness! A lot of antimony can lead to vomiting. Please don't think we give these poisons pure, they are compounds, safer!



Change or Continuity?



Renaissance *Treatments*

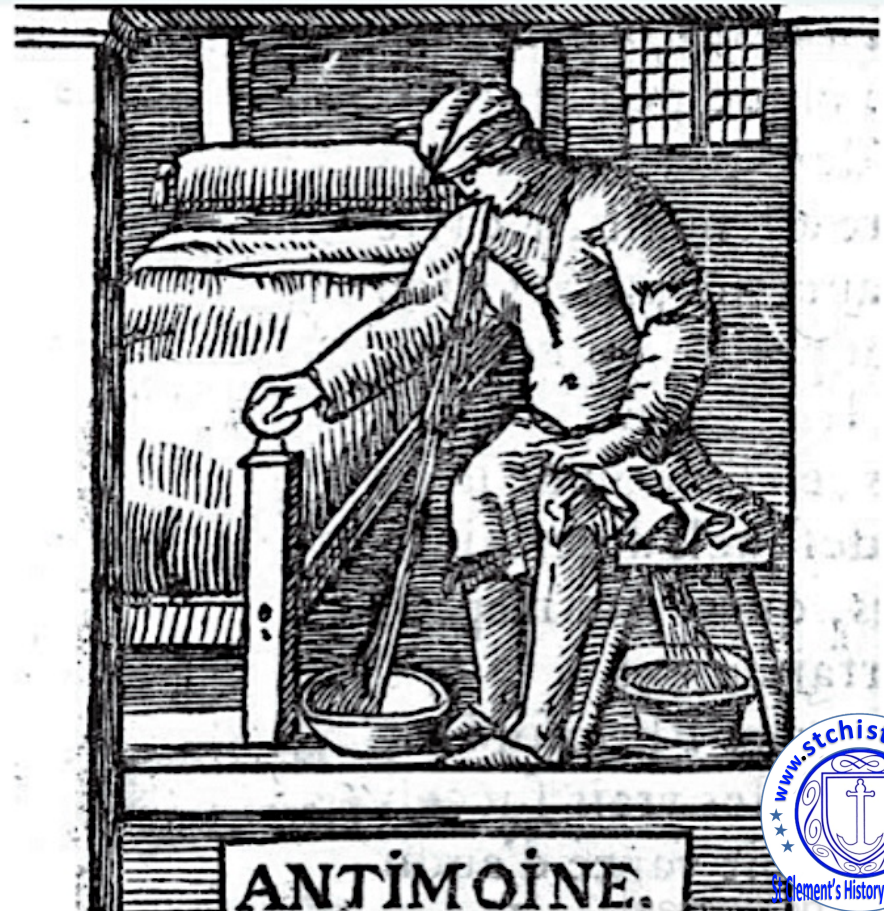
Idea 3: *Chemical Cures*

Source B

This woodcut, published in a French medical textbook by Hannibal Barlet in 1657, shows a patient vomiting after being given antimony as a purge.



Syphilis (Great Pox)





Renaissance *Preventions*



Clearly, preventing disease in the first place is still the best way forward! If you don't want to die, don't get sick, simple!



Renaissance *Preventions*

Idea 1: Moderation



Change or Continuity?

Remain moderate in all that you do, avoid draughts, exhaustion, rich and fatty foods, too much strong alcohol, oh and don't be lazy!

Also, if you're born small and weak, you'll probably get ill later in life!

What could a person get to help with this?

Regimen Sanitatis



Renaissance *Preventions*

Idea 2: Cleanliness



Change or Continuity?

Your home and body should be clean and free from bad smells, you know the drill!
Cleanliness is next to Godliness!

Although, we're not using the public baths so much these days since syphilis arrived!

Was it the baths that spread syphilis or the fact the bath houses became brothels?

Renaissance *Preventions*

Idea 2: Cleanliness



Change or Continuity?

Homeowners are now fined for not cleaning the streets outside their homes.

Projects are set up to drain swamps and bogs.

Minor criminals will be set the task of removing sewage and picking up rubbish from the streets as a punishment

What are these ideas dealing with?



Renaissance *Preventions*

Idea 3: Avoidance



Change or Continuity?

If you can, the best way to prevent sickness is to move away from an infected area!

Avoid certain weather conditions too! Scientists have come up with these new thermometers and barometers, they are checking to see if there is a link between weather and outbreaks



Renaissance

Change & Continuity Summary:

Preventing disease: things that were the same (continuity)	Preventing disease: things that were different (change)
People still believed that there were many factors that could prevent disease, including superstitions and prayer...	...but people also started to believe that other things could help avoid disease, such as practising moderation and your condition at birth.
Cleanliness was still very important...	...but bathing had become a lot less fashionable in England since the arrival of syphilis. People now kept clean by changing their clothes more often.
People continued to practise regimen sanitatis...	...but, by the end of the 17th century, people also began to think that disease was also related to other factors (for example, the weather).
Miasma was still believed in...	...but more steps were now taken to remove miasma from the air (for example, removing sewage and picking up rubbish from the streets).

Exam-style question, Section B

Explain **one** way in which ideas about the treatment of disease were different in the 17th century from ideas in the 13th century.

4 marks

Exam tip

The difference between half marks and full marks on this question is how precise your knowledge is. Make sure you give a fact that relates to each time period.

Use your Structure Strip to help you

Renaissance: Medical Care overview



Renaissance



What options were there for care in the Renaissance?



Renaissance Medical Care

You have a sheet that has all of the information for care in the Renaissance period.

You need to read through this sheet deciding if these show change or continuity

Change

Continuity



Renaissance Apothecary



- Mixing herbs and remedies

What new herbs might the Renaissance apothecary now have to mix?

- Apothecaries had an apprentice who would learn from the master and one day open his own apothecary
- Needed a licence to practice their trade
- Medical chemistry meant the apothecary needed better training
- Provided services for the poor

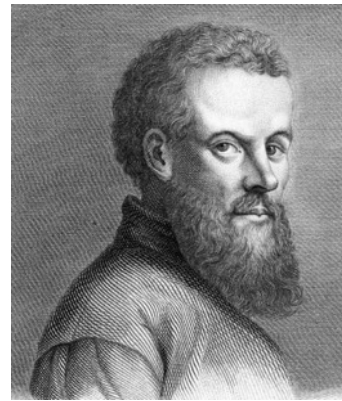
Renaissance

Barber Surgeon



- Carry out simple surgery
- Education and practise increased due to wars being fought with new weapons, leading to new wounds
- Apprenticeships available to learn from the master
- Licence needed to practice their trade
- Provided services for the poor

Renaissance Physician



"I'd rather have the advice or take medicine from an experienced old woman, who had been at many sick people's bedsides, than from the most learned but unexperienced physician" **Thomas Hobbes c. late1600s** **What can you infer from this?**

- Trained at universities
- Some new ideas, but slow to take effect
- Anatomy and Medical Chemistry learnt
- Most lectures from books and in Latin
- Physicians inspired by new findings and ideas – **Vesalius & Harvey**

- Little hands on training, difficult to get fresh corpses
- Better access to Medical text books and cheaper – **Printing Press**
- Many out of work (due to protestant churches being plain) artists could draw for the test books

Renaissance

Hospitals



- A good diet provided
- Records show patients with wounds and curable diseases were admitted and discharged – suggesting they got better
- A visit from a physician twice a day observing and prescribing treatment
- Medication given – many hospitals had their own apothecary or pharmacy
- Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries dramatically changed availability of hospital care in England – **Why?**
 - Medieval hospitals were attached to the monasteries and ran by monks and nuns
 - St. Bartholomew's in London only survived because Henry VIII funded it himself
- Small charity hospitals set up but it took time to get as many as before

Renaissance

Pest Houses



What is a pest house?

- Specialised in a particular disease
Plague houses and Poxhouses
- Versions of these had been around in Middle Ages called Lazar houses for leprosy
- Provided because a growing understanding that disease could be spread from person to person, just not how!
- Alternative from hospitals that did not admit contagious diseases



Renaissance

Pest Houses

**St. Pauls
Cathedral
converted into
a Pest House
during the
Great Plague
1665, as well
as many other
outbreaks in
London**



Designed & Engraved.

By J. Stow.

Saint Paul's converted into a Pest House.



Renaissance

Community Care



- Most cared for at home
- Plenty of people in the close communities to offer advice and mix remedies
- Women played a major role in caring
- Poor women worked in the big cities to support their families. They were often prosecuted for not having a licence
- Poor women made up simple remedies to purge, and were very popular, probably because they were cheaper

Summary

- Methods of treatment mainly stayed the same between 1500 and 1700. Bleeding, purging and other humoural treatments were still popular. Herbal remedies were very common.
- New herbal remedies appeared. Exploration to places previously unknown, like the New World, meant that new plants were available.
- There was a new focus on chemical cures. This was known as iatrochemistry. This reflected a new interest in minerals and chemicals in society.
- People still believed in the importance of cleanliness and tried to avoid miasmata.
- Apothecaries and surgeons continued to treat the sick and received more formal training.
- By 1700, physicians studied anatomy and botany alongside their traditional medical courses.
- Vesalius, an anatomy professor, published an anatomy textbook called *On the Fabric of the Human Body*. It corrected many of Galen's mistakes and encouraged physicians to carry out their own dissections.
- Hospitals had more focus on medical treatment by the end of this period, but there were fewer of them in England because of the dissolution of the monasteries. However, the vast majority of sick people continued to be treated at home by women.

Checkpoint

Strengthen

- S1** Describe the changes in the way that physicians were trained between c1250–c1500 and c1500–c1700.
- S2** List five of the mistakes Vesalius found in the works of Galen.
- S3** Describe the different places that sick people could seek medical treatment between 1500 and 1700.

Challenge

- C1** Attitudes in society were a big factor in both driving and limiting the amount of change in treatment during this period. Select information to show three ways that people's beliefs and suspicions encouraged medical development, and three ways that they held them back.
- C2** Explain the differences between hospital and community care in the period c1250–c1500 and in the period c1500–c1700.