**The Hippocratic Oath**

* Original script (from the late 5th century BCE, translated from original Greek)

I swear by [Apollo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apollo) the physician, and [Aesculapius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asclepius) the surgeon, likewise [Hygeia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hygieia) and [Panacea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panacea), and call all the gods and goddesses to witness, that I will observe and keep this underwritten oath, to the utmost of my power and judgment.

I will reverence my master who taught me the art. Equally with my parents, will I allow him things necessary for his support, and will consider his sons as brothers. I will teach them my art without reward or agreement; and I will impart all my acquirement, instructions, and whatever I know, to my master's children, as to my own; and likewise to all my pupils, who shall bind and tie themselves by a professional oath, but to none else.

With regard to healing the sick, I will devise and order for them the best diet, according to my judgment and means; and I will take care that they suffer no hurt or damage.

Nor shall any man's entreaty prevail upon me to administer poison to anyone; neither will I counsel any man to do so. Moreover, I will give no sort of medicine to any pregnant woman, with a view to destroy the child.

Further, I will comport myself and use my knowledge in a godly manner.

I will not [cut for the stone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lithotomy), but will commit that affair entirely to the surgeons.

Whatsoever house I may enter, my visit shall be for the convenience and advantage of the patient; and I will willingly refrain from doing any injury or wrong from falsehood, and (in an especial manner) from acts of an amorous nature, whatever may be the rank of those who it may be my duty to cure, whether mistress or servant, bond or free.

Whatever, in the course of my practice, I may see or hear (even when not invited), whatever I may happen to obtain knowledge of, if it be not proper to repeat it, I will keep sacred and secret within my own breast.

If I faithfully observe this oath, may I thrive and prosper in my fortune and profession, and live in the estimation of posterity; or on breach thereof, may the reverse be my fate![[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hippocratic_Oath#cite_note-4)

**Modern Version**

* Written in 1964 by Louis Lasagna, Academic Dean of the School of Medicine at Tufts University, and used in many medical schools today.

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow. I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures which are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism. I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug. I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery. I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God. I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick. I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure. I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm. If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.

**Edwin Smith Papyrus**

The rational and practical nature of the papyrus is illustrated in 48 case histories, which are listed according to each organ.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-LewkoniaRay-5) Presented cases are typical, not individual.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-WilkinsRobert-2) The papyrus begins by addressing injuries to the head, and continues with treatments for injuries to neck, arms and torso,[[14]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-14) detailing injuries in descending anatomical order[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-RitnerRobert_a-9) like a modern anatomical exposition.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-WilkinsRobert-2) The title of each case details the nature of trauma, such as “Practices for a gaping wound in his head, which has penetrated to the bone and split the skull”.[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-15) The objective examination process[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus" \l "cite_note-VeithIlza-16) included visual and olfactory clues, palpation and taking of the pulse.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-RitnerRobert_a-9) Following the examination are the diagnosis and prognosis, where the physician judges the patient’s chances of survival and makes one of three diagnoses: “An ailment which I will treat,” “An ailment with which I will contend,” or “An ailment not to be treated”.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-RitnerRobert_a-9) Last, treatment options are offered. In many of the cases, explanations of trauma are included to provide further clarity.[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-Allenpp-8)

Among the treatments are closing wounds with sutures (for wounds of the lip, throat, and shoulder),[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-17) bandaging, splints, poultices,[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-RitnerRobert_a-9) preventing and curing infection with honey, and stopping bleeding with raw meat.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Smith_Papyrus#cite_note-18) Immobilization is advised for head and spinal cord injuries, as well as other lower body fractures.