

## EVOLUTION OF MEDICAL SYMBOLS

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**Annotatsiya:** Tibbiyot ramzlarining evolyutsiyasi qadimgi yunon mifologiyasiga borib taqaladi. Caduceus — ikki ilonli va qanotli hassadan iborat bo'lib, aslida Hermesning savdo, diplomatiya va muvozanat timsolidir. Shunga qaramay, tarixiy chalkashlik sababli u ayrim joylarda tibbiyot belgisi sifatida noto'g'ri qo'llanilgan. Haqiqiy tibbiy ramz — Asclepius hassasi bo'lib, u bitta ilon o'ralgan oddiy staffdan iborat va qadimdan shifo, sog'liq va tiklanishni anglatgan. Asclepiusning qizi Hygieia esa profilaktika, tozalik va gigiyena timsoli bo'lgan. Tibbiyot ramzlarining shakllanishi va ularning mazmuni zamonaviy tibbiyotda ham dolzarbligini saqlab kelmoqda.

**Kalit so'zlar:** Caduceus, Asclepius hassasi, Hygieia, tibbiyot ramzlari, yunon mifologiyasi, shifo timsollari, tibbiyot tarixi.

The Caduceus is a symbol that features a short staff entwined by two serpents, often with a pair of wings at the top. Its origins trace back to ancient Greek mythology, where it was closely associated with Hermes, the messenger of the gods. Hermes was known as the god of commerce, communication, travel, diplomacy, and negotiation, and the caduceus symbolized his role as a mediator and bringer of balance. The intertwining snakes represent harmony, duality, and negotiation, while the wings represent speed and swiftness, reflecting Hermes' role as a messenger. In mythology, the story of the caduceus tells that Hermes received the staff as a symbol of peace after he intervened between two quarreling snakes, which then entwined themselves around the staff. This imagery was originally connected to balance, protection, and negotiation, rather than medicine or healing.



**Caduceus symbol**



**Hermes (Mercury)**

The connection between the caduceus and medicine is largely a result of historical confusion, particularly in the United States. The true symbol of medicine is the Rod of Asclepius, which features a single snake entwined around a staff. Asclepius was the Greek god of healing and medicine, and his rod symbolized health, rejuvenation, and the power to cure disease. The single serpent is thought to represent renewal and life, as snakes shed their skin and appear reborn. Despite this clear distinction, the caduceus became mistakenly associated with medicine in the modern era. This confusion may have arisen in the 19th and early 20th centuries when the U.S. Army Medical Corps adopted the caduceus as its insignia in 1902. From that point, many medical institutions, hospitals, and commercial healthcare organizations in the U.S. began using the caduceus as a symbol of medicine, even though its mythological meaning was originally unrelated to healing. Because the caduceus is visually striking, with its two entwined serpents and wings, it became a popular emblem for medical organizations, pharmacies, and healthcare branding. Over time, this widespread use reinforced the mistaken belief that it was a traditional symbol of medicine, even though its historical and mythological roots are actually in commerce, negotiation, and divine communication.



**Rod of Asclepius**



**Asclepius**

The Rod of Asclepius is one of the most ancient and enduring symbols of medicine and healing. It consists of a single staff with one serpent coiled around it, and unlike the Caduceus, it has no wings. This symbol is directly tied to Asclepius, the Greek god of medicine, who was believed to have the power to heal the sick and even bring the dead back to life. The single serpent is deeply symbolic. In many ancient cultures, snakes represented renewal, rejuvenation, and the cycle of life, because snakes shed their skin and seemed to be reborn. The staff, a simple wooden rod, represents authority, stability, and guidance, showing that medicine is not only about curing but also about leadership in care and ethical practice. Together, the rod and serpent symbolize healing, wisdom, and the restoration of health. Today, The Rod of Asclepius accepted internationally the symbol of medicine. This symbol is logo of World Health Organization, also. Asclepius had a daughter named Hygieia, whose name is the root of the modern word “hygiene.” She is associated with preventive medicine, cleanliness, and public health. Her symbol is typically depicted as a bowl with a serpent drinking from it. The bowl represents medicine, nourishment, and the preparation of healing remedies, while the serpent signifies life, renewal, and the transmission of healing knowledge. This symbol emphasizes prevention, balance, and overall well-being, complementing her father’s focus on curing diseases.





hygiene (Hygieia) symbol



Grek

### god Hygiei

In practice, the Rod of Asclepius became widely used as a symbol by medical societies, hospitals, and health organizations worldwide, representing authentic medicine and healing. Hygieia's symbol, on the other hand, highlights the importance of preventive healthcare, sanitation, and hygiene, showing that medicine is not only about treating illness but also about maintaining health and preventing disease.

- Rod of Asclepius: Staff with a single serpent, symbol of healing, medicine, and restoration.
- Hygieia's symbol: Bowl with a serpent, symbol of prevention, hygiene, and public health.

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