

JIM C – HEALTH TERMS

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HOW DID THE TERM “*DOCTOR*” ORIGINATE?

Wikipedia: A physician or medical doctor practices medicine, and is concerned with maintaining or restoring human health through the study, diagnosis, and treatment of disease/injury.

Online Etymology: Circa 1303, "Church father," from Old French *doctour*, from Middle Latin "religious teacher, adviser, scholar," from Latin *doctor* "teacher," from *doct-* stem of *docere* "to show, teach," originally "make to appear right."

Douglas Guthrie: Medical men were first called "Doctor" at the Medical School of Salerno. He states that the Emperor Frederick II decreed in 1221 that no one should practice medicine until he had been approved by the masters of Salerno.

Encyclopedia Britannica: In Europe it was long confined to the faculties of law and divinity. Though the word is so commonly used as synonymous with "physician," it was not until the 14th century that the doctor's degree began to be conferred in medicine.

1898 (Dictionary of Phrase and Fable): A seventh son used to be so dubbed from the notion of his being intuitively skilled in the cure of agues, the king's evil, and other diseases.

Conventional Wisdom: Doctor = A licensed medical practitioner

Moment of Zen: Observe the doctor as he observes the disease