Ancient Greek Medicine
Apollo

The first God of Medicine,

God of divination, of prophecy of light and music
Apollo
The God of Medicine

The reason was that he could predict the future. For example, he could predict the outcome of a disease.

Coin of Apollonia pontica
Apollo as physician
By simple observation of the strength of different plants, man very early realised that he could influence his illnesses and suffering.
On this way the early physicians/priests collected a huge amount of knowledge and applied it to patients. The result was the birth of Empirical Medicine.
“As with the time physicians knew slowly slowly more and they could predict better than the priests the outcome of an illness”.
The time had come that Medicine had to be separated from the oracles and the priests. A new God of Medicine had to be created, to protect and cure the patients.

Asklepios

Seated Asklepios on a metope
Temple of Asclepius, Epidauros, 4th c. BC.
Asklepios was at the beginning a physician.

He was a student of the father of Pharmacology, the Centaur Cheiron.

At Homers time he was king of the city of Trikke, to days Trikkala in Thessaly.

His two sons Machaon and Podaleirios participated in the war of Troy with 30 boats and at least 1500 soldiers.
Απόλλων

Κορωνίς

Ηπιόνη + Ασκληπιός + Λαμππετώ

Μαχάων

Υγεία

Πανάκεια

Αίγιλη

Τελεσφόρος

Ποδαλείριος

Ιασώ

Ακεσίς
Centaur Cheiron
Ophiouchos stars
Machaon bandaging Menelaos

Podaleirios
2nd c. BC, Dion
Asklepios and his family, 370 - 270 BC, Thyrea Argolis
After the deification of Asclepios, the first infirmaries appeared named Asklepieia.

45 in Peloponnese
66 in Thessaly
Approx. 400 around the Mediterranean Basin

Danube-Ethiopia
Spain-Samarkand
ASKLEPIEIA (~ 400)

Trikke (1600 B.C.)
Epidaurus (1600 ?, 800 B.C.)
Kos (6th c. B.C., 366 B.C.)
Athens (420/19 B.C.)
Pergamon (4th c. B.C.)
Rome (292 B.C.)
Reconstruction of the Asklepieion of Epidaurus
The Theater of the Asklepieion of Epidauros
The “hospice” of the Asklepieion of Epidaurus
The Asklepieion of Kos
366 BC – 600 AD
Looking up to the second level
The Xyston (Gymnasium) in Kos, 200-150 BC
The “Planetree of Hippokrates”