Period of Intuitive Nursing/Medieval Period

- Nursing was “untaught” and instinctive. It was performed of compassion for others, out of the wish to help others.
- Nursing was a function that belonged to women. It was viewed as a natural nurturing job for women. She is expected to take good care of the children, the sick and the aged.
- No caregiving training is evident. It was based on experience and observation.
- Primitive men believed that illness was caused by the invasion of the victim’s body of evil spirits. They believed that the medicine man, Shaman or witch doctor had the power to heal by using white magic, hypnosis, charms, dances, incantation, purgatives, massage, fire, water and herbs as a mean of driving illness from the victim.
- Trephining – drilling a hole in the skull with a rock or stone without anesthesia was a last resort to drive evil spirits from the body of the afflicted.

From Prehistoric times up to the early Christian Era
- Untaught and Instinctive
- Nursing performed out of compassion
- Nursing belonged to women
- INTUITIVE NURSING
- Cause of illness was believed to be the invasion of the victims’ body by an evil spirit.
- Uses black magic or voodoo to harm or driven out by using supernatural powers.
- Believed in medicine man (shaman or witch doctor) that had power to heal by using white magic.
- They made use of hypnosis, charms, dances, incantations, purgatives, massage, fire, water, herbs or other vegetations and even animals.
- Performing a trephine
- Drilling a hole in the skull with a rock or stone without benefit of anesthesia
- Goal of this therapy is to drive the evil spirit from the victim’s body.
- Nurse’s role was instinctive – directive toward comforting, practicing midwifery and being wet nurse to a child.
Acts performed without training and Direction.

**Babylonia**

Practice of medicine is far advanced

Code of Hammurabi - Legal and civil measures is established.
Regulate the practice of physicians - Greater safety of patient provided

No mention of Nurses or nursing this time

**Egypt**

Art of embalming
enhance their knowledge of human anatomy

Developed the ability to make keen clinical observations and left a record of 250 recognized diseases.

Control of health was in the hands of Gods. The first acknowledge physician was Imhotep.

Made great progress in the field of hygiene and sanitation.

Reference to nurses in Moses’ 5th book is a midwife and wet nurse

**Palestine**

The Hebrews book of Genesis emphasized the teachings of Judaism regarding hospitality to the stranger and acts of charity

Implementation of laws
like controlling the spread of communicable disease - cleanliness - preparation of food - purification of man (bathing) and his food

The ritual of circumcision
of the male child on the 8th
day

The established of the High Priest Aaron as the physician of people

China

Culture was imbued with the belief in spirits and demons

Gave the world the knowledge of material medica (pharmacology);
method of treating wounds, infection and muscular afflictions.

Chan Chun Ching –
Chinese Hippocrates

Emperor Shen Nung
– said to be the father of Chinese medicine and the inventor of acupuncture technique

No mention of nursing in Chinese writings so it is assumed that care of the sick will fall to the female members of the household.

India

First recorded reference to the nurse’s taking care of patients on the writings of shushurutu.

Functions and qualifications of nurse includes:
- knowledge in drug preparation and administration
- cleverness - devotedness to the patient
- purity of both mind and body

King Asoke
, a Buddhist, published an edict to established hospitals throughout India were nurses were employed.

Greece

Made contribution in the area aesthetic arts and clinical medicine, but nursing was the task of the untrained slave.

Aesculapius, the Father of Medicine in Greek mythology to whom we associate the Caduceus

. (known insignia of medical profession today)

Hippocrates
•, the “Father of Medicine” insisted that magic and philosophical theories had no place in medicine.

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The work of women was restricted to the household. Where mistress of the mansion gave nursing care to the sick slaves.

• **Rome**

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Acquired their knowledge of medicine from the Greeks,

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**Emperor Vespasian**

• opened schools to teach medicine

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Developed military medicine – First aid, field ambulance service and hospitals for wounded soldiers.

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Translated Greek medical terminologies into Latin terms which has been used in medicine ever since

**Early Philippines**

Early beliefs of health and illness in the Philippines were in conjunction with beliefs of mysticism and superstitions. The cause of a disease was believed to be due to either another person, whom which was an enemy, or a witch or evil spirits. Filipinos were careful not to upset other people or the evil spirits for the good of their health. These evil spirits could be driven away by persons with power to banish demons. The individuals who were known to rid of demons were either priests or herb doctors. Filipinos who became sick were usually cared for by the female family members or friends in the home.