Aesclepius (pronounced ASS-CLEEP-EEUS) was a hugely important God to both the Greeks and Romans due to his legendary skills as a healer.

He was the son of Apollo and was taught his healing skills from Chiron the Centaur. The most famous temples of Asclepius were located in Epidaurus, Pergamum and the island of Kos.

During a plague in Rome in 292 BC, an envoy from the city left for the Temple of Asclepius in Epidaurus to seek relief from the illness. A Sacred snake was sent to Rome by boat, which slithered off when the boat reached Tiber Island, and it was there that the first Roman temple to Asclepius was founded.

Although no temples of Asclepius have been discovered in Britain, many altars dedicated to him have been found in Roman settlements such as Chester, Lancaster, Chichester and in forts along Hadrian’s Wall.

D A U G H T E R S O F A S C L E P I U S

PANACEA
The goddess of universal remedy

HYGIEIA
The goddess of cleanliness & sanitation

ACESO
The goddess of the healing process

AGLÆA
The goddess of beauty, splendor, and adornment

T H E S T A F F O F A S C L E P I U S

Asclepius is often associated with the snakes which lived in his temples. It is possible that the shedding of skin was symbolic of rejuvenating the body. The god is often seen carrying a staff entwined by a snake, which is still used today as symbols for chemists, ambulances or doctors surgeries.

THE ROMAN MEDICINE ROADSHOW IS SUPPORT BY

[Logos of the sponsors: big HERITAGE, wellcome trust, Museum of Liverpool]