The Abbasids supported and patronised medical research and medical practitioners. Great developments in medicine were achieved: books on a variety of medical subjects were written and translated; medical experiments were conducted and documented and a number of medical instruments were designed to deal with a variety of procedures.

Name: Fragment of a medical prescription

Dynasty: Hegira beginning of the 2nd century / AD 8th century Abbasid

Details: Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

Justification: Physicians knew of the medicinal benefits of certain plants. The Aloe Vera plant is prescribed in this document, combined with other substances, to treat a number of different conditions.

Name: Glass vessel possibly for chemistry

Dynasty: Around hegira 3rd–4th century / AD 9th–10th century Abbasid

Details: National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

Justification: Medical compounds were made by pharmacists, but dispensed by physicians as well as pharmacies. These medicines included elixirs, ointments, pills and tablets.

Name: Spoon

Dynasty: Hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Abbasid

Details: Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

Justification: Medical examination of the mouth and throat was carried out with the aid of a spoon-shaped instrument like this one, used to press down the tongue. It was also used in surgery to remove the tonsils.

Name: Surgical scalpel

Dynasty: 
Hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Abbasid

**Details:**
Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

**Justification:**
Abbasid surgeons knew the importance of hygiene when conducting surgical operations. Hospitals (bimaristsans) were established to provide treatment and medical training.

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Name:
Implement to remove teeth

**Dynasty:**
Hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Abbasid

**Details:**
Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

**Justification:**
Fustat, where this instrument was found, was a well-known centre of the medical sciences; it was here that Ahmad Ibn Tulun ordered the construction of Bimaristan al-'Alaa in 254 / 868.