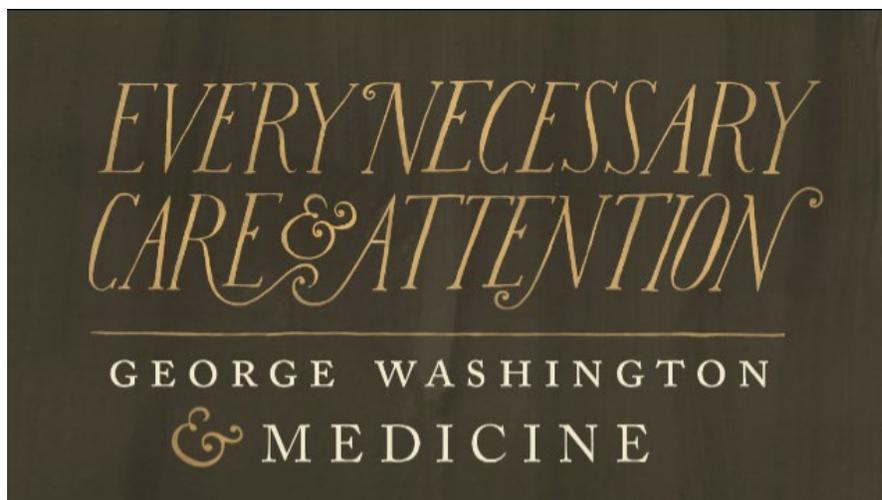


# NLM Traveling Exhibitions

## PR Information



[www.nlm.nih.gov/georgewashington](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/georgewashington)

The National Library of Medicine produced *Every Necessary Care and Attention: George Washington and Medicine* in collaboration with George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate, Museum, and Gardens.

The traveling exhibition and companion website explore the ways in which George Washington sought to ensure the health and safety of his family, staff, enslaved workers, and troop. Washington had many different concerns and responsibilities, from running his plantation to ensuring the stability of a new nation. His status and wealth gave him—and his community—access to a growing class of medical experts and new knowledge about the spread and prevention of disease. Even so, George Washington encountered the limits of medicine when faced with serious illness.

*Every Necessary Care and Attention* includes an [education component](#) with two K-12 lesson plans and a university module. A [digital gallery](#) features a curated selection of fully digitized items from the historical collections of the NLM, which are also available in their entirety in [NLM Digital Collections](#).

Please include this courtesy line with all public announcements about the project:

**The National Library of Medicine produced this exhibition and companion website.**

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## PR Information

Host venues for *Every Necessary Care and Attention* receive the following PR images. For your reference, there are brief captions for the images. Please include their corresponding **courtesy** noted below when using them.



George Washington turned to medical advice found in the books in his library, such as this, and ordered an assortment of common and patent medicines for his family, staff, and slaves.

*The Family Physician and the House Apothecary*, Gideon Harvey, MD, 1678  
**Courtesy National Library of Medicine**



The Washingtons used services of dentists, and purchased toothbrushes and tooth powders. Still George Washington lost his first tooth at the age of 24 and his last when he was 64.

George Washington's dentures, 1790-1799  
**Courtesy Mount Vernon Ladies' Association**



In December 1799, George Washington was unconcerned about his sore throat after being outside in poor weather around his estate. This became his final illness for which doctors treated with, then common, bloodletting, purgatives, emetics, enemas, and blistering.

*G. Washington in his last illness attended by Doctrs. Craik and Brown*, early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
**Courtesy Mount Vernon Ladies' Association**



Phlebotomy or, bloodletting, was common in the 18th century, for treating fever and inflammation that were believed to be caused by excessive blood, phlegm, and bile. George Washington lost three quarts or half his blood volume during his final illness.

*Breathing a Vein*, James Gillray, 1804  
**Courtesy National Library of Medicine**