

Nicholas of Salerno, Also Known as Nicolaus Salernitanus Encyclopedia Article

Nicholas of Salerno, Also Known as Nicolaus Salernitanus

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Contents

Nicholas of Salerno, Also Known as Nicolaus Salernitanus Encyclopedia Article.....	1
Contents.....	2
Nicholas of Salerno, Also Known as Nicolaus Salernitanus.....	3

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fl. 1140

Italian physician who is traditionally considered the author of a famous medieval treatise on pharmacology and antidotes known as the *Antidotarium Nicolai*. This formulary is an important source of information about medieval pharmacy, materia medica, dentistry, and pharmacotherapy, and it was probably based on the anonymous *Antidotarius magnus* (composed between 1087 and 1100). That text was probably based on an older Salernitan manuscript by Constantine the African (Constantinus Africanus, 1020-1087). Nothing is actually known about the life of Nicolaus Salernitanus, who allegedly lived during the first half of the twelfth century. The name Nicolaus became associated with the *Antidotarium* and other traditional formularies after the twelfth century. The first printed edition of the *Antidotarium Nicolai* was published in Venice in 1471. A text containing a reprint of the first printing, along with a modern German translation, was published in 1976. The *Antidotarium* has also been translated into Dutch and Czech. Scholars continue to struggle with the dating and lineage of the work.