



National
Institute for
Biological
Standards and
Control



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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 11 - 2006

Acupuncture

Applies to Donor Selection Guidelines - Whole Blood and Components

Obligatory

Must not donate if:

The condition for which treatment was given is not acceptable.

Less than 12 months from completing treatment.

Discretionary

Performed within the NHS

If performed by a suitably qualified NHS healthcare professional on NHS premises, accept.

Performed outside of the NHS

If performed by a Medical Practitioner registered with the General Medical Council (GMC), accept.

If performed by a Nurse registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), accept.

If a valid certificate is available from an acupuncturist registered with the Acupuncture Association of Chartered Physiotherapists or the British Acupuncture Council or the General Chiropractic Council or the General Osteopathic Council, accept.

If none of the above apply and, after 6 months, a validated test for hepatitis B core antibody is negative, accept.

See if relevant

[Appendix 2](#) for sample certificate.

Additional Information

Acupuncture needles that have been re-used, have passed infection from person to person. Acupuncturists who are subject to discipline from professional authorities are unlikely to re-use needles.

During the recovery phase of HBV infection levels of free HBsAg may be too low to detect. Antibody to hepatitis B core antigen may be the only indicator of infectivity.

When there is any doubt about infection being passed on, waiting twelve months means infections are more likely to be picked up by the tests used by the blood services.



Reason for Change

The guideline remains essentially unchanged but there have been some changes to the wording to improve clarity.

To reflect the increasing number of nursing staff performing acupuncture both within and outside of the NHS.

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