

**Date of publication:** 10<sup>th</sup> August 2009

**Implementation:** To be determined by each Service

## **Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 20 - 2009**

# **Complementary Therapy**

**Applies to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines only**

### **Obligatory**

#### **Must not donate if:**

The condition for which treatment was given is not acceptable.

#### **Therapies involving penetration by needles:**

##### **Must not donate if:**

Less than 12 months from completing treatment.

### **Discretionary**

#### **Therapies involving penetration by needles:**

##### **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 Council for Acupuncture or the General Chiropractic Council or the General Osteopathic Council, accept.

If after four months a validated test for hepatitis B core antibody is negative, accept

### **See if Relevant**

#### Acupuncture

Appendix 2 for sample certificate.

### **Additional Information**

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

This guidance presumes that a validated NAT test for hepatitis C is negative, if this test is stopped for any reason the guidance will change.

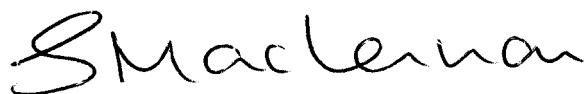
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During the recovery phase of HBV infection levels of free HBsAg may be too low to detect. Antibody to hepatitis B core antigen may be the only indicator of infectivity.

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**

To reflect updated JPAC Standing Advisory Committee on Transfusion Transmitted Infections guidance on infection risk in line with The Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.



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