

THE NATION

FDA gives nod to acupuncture

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration yesterday classified acupuncture needles as medical devices for "general use" by trained professionals.

The agency did not go so far as to state that acupuncture is effective for any particular condition, an outcome many acupuncturists had hoped for. But by designating instruments of a 2,000-year-old Chinese healing art in the same category with such standard Western medical tools as scalpels and syringes, the FDA removed a major barrier to insurance coverage for acupuncture. (LAT)