The following template is for you to personalise and send to patients so that they can use it to get a referral to you from their GP.

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Insert patient’s name and address

DOB: (insert patient’s date of birth)

(Insert date)

Dear Dr (insert doctor’s name – or a generic name for doctors at the practice if you don’t have a specific doctor)

I am writing to request a referral from you for acupuncture treatment. I understand that it is now Scottish Government policy that I would need to get a written referral from a GP or other regulated health professional before being able to have acupuncture.

I am currently seeing acupuncturist/The acupuncturist I want to see is (delete as appropriate) (insert your name), who is a member of the British Acupuncture Council (membership number: insert number). Their membership can be checked online here <https://www.acupuncture.org.uk/find#general> or by emailing the safe practice officer H.Bowie-Carlin@acupuncture.org.uk

My reason for having acupuncture is (insert brief details of the main complaint(s) and possibly something about the effect that it has on their life. Note that only complaints that are explicitly medical will be appropriate, and that severity, deterioration and effect on mental health are strong indicators of need for treatment. “The focus of care should be restricted to essential or urgent treatment of clinically diagnosed conditions, where no treatment would have a significant adverse impact on the wellbeing of the patient”).

British Acupuncture Council (BAcC) acupuncturists are legally entitled to continue working during the current Coronavirus restrictions, as long as their patients obtain a referral letter from a GP.

The BAcC operates the only acupuncture register accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA). <https://www.professionalstandards.org.uk/check-practitioners/practitioner/acupuncturist> . The General Medical Council has explicitly authorised general practitioners to refer to ‘registers accredited by the PSA’ <https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/delegation-and-referral/delegation-and-referral>

BAcC members follow strict Covid-19 health and safety measures outlined in detailed guidance based on the Scottish Government and NHS standards of Infection Protection Control.

I am sorry to have to involve you in any extra administration work, especially at this time, but now I cannot access acupuncture without getting this referral and I regard my treatment as an urgent necessity.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, or the BAcC directly, if you would like more information.

Yours sincerely,

(patient’s signature and name)