

NHS IN CIGS 'LASER CURE'

A REVOLUTIONARY laser treatment helping smokers to quit the weed is being made available on the NHS for the first time.

Health officials were so impressed by its 50 per cent success rate they have introduced it at a Lanarkshire hospital.

The £80 treatment programme is similar to acupuncture but a £5,000 painfree laser is used instead of needles. It was developed by Ann Penman, 44, after her smoker husband Ron suffered two heart attacks and almost died.

She explained: "A beam is applied to points on the hands, ears, nose and wrists. This promotes the release of endorphin into the system having a calming effect on the body.

"The feeling of euphoria helps to dramatically reduce the withdrawal system's irritability and cravings."

The treatment is being tried out on NHS patients at Monkland's Hospital,

By ED JOHNSON

Airdrie. Anne first heard about it in 1992 from a therapist as she tried to end her 60-a-day habit.

She trained to use a laser and now runs a treatment centre in Crosshill, Glasgow.

Nurse Linda McSwiggan, 35, who smoked 40 a day before laser therapy, declared: "It worked instantly."