

## Comment #: 2

I am an ophthalmologist and have been fitting contact lenses for years. I realize the reason for your rule but there is a serious fallacy underlying the rule itself.

Once a contact lens has been "fit", the lens itself may have been worn for only 30 minutes or an hours. Many, many times, corneal problems due to improper contact lens fit are not manifest until the contact lens has been worn for at least several weeks. For that reason, we do not and do not plan to release a contact lens prescription until the patient has worn the lens safely for six months. Your proposed rule opens up the following very likely scenario:

A patient gets a contact lens fitting, but does not obtain the contact lens from the practitioner performing the fitting. The patient obtains a contact from the internet, contact lenses that are known to often be expired anyway.

No one follows the patient for problems that can develop in the next several weeks and the patient simply orders additional lenses over the internet, presenting himself to an eye care practitioner only after a serious complication such as a corneal infiltrate or ulcer has developed.

I recommend that the rule be modified so that the contact lens prescription need not be released until the patient has safely worn the contact lens safely for six months. Such a period would safeguard thousands of eyes.

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