

Good Morning,

I would like to address two ways that I have found that the intent of the new Federal contact lens law may be broken.

First, 1-800-CONTACTS has repeatedly requested validation of contact lens prescriptions for patients that are NOT patients of our practice. We respond and tell them that. They then fax ANOTHER request for the same patient for the same Rx. We AGAIN respond and inform them that the patient is NOT a patient of our practice. They then fax ANOTHER request!!!! You see where I'm going with this. At the point where we tire of responding, they will enact the part of the law that states that, hey, the doctor didn't respond in eight business hours, so we can sell the lenses! They will just throw the first responses away, AND we have no way of finding out if the patient was ever sold lenses illegally! There must be something in the rules that state that the purveyors MUST CONFIRM the prescribing doctor, or something along those lines.

Secondly, just like with medications, there must be some kind of control on the number of contacts sold to a patient, and the number of prescriptions the patient can get or receive, not just the expiration date. In other words, the way the current law is written, there is nothing that would prevent a patient from getting a twenty YEAR supply of lenses from one seller, or requesting numerous prescriptions and going to numerous sellers to do the same thing. The fact that the patient should only be able to buy a YEAR'S SUPPLY of lenses, not just have a year's expiration date. Yes, there should some provision for lost or torn lenses, but the patient should not be allowed to circumvent the law and but that twenty year supply.

Thank you for listening to my concerns in protecting the patients.

Gary L. Barker, O.D.