

Comment #418

From: Tim Conrad
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2004 9:43 AM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: Some ideas to consider

Dear sir or madam,

I am a practicing ophthalmologist in _____ Kentucky. I have some concerns regarding the new contact lens law for which you are making rules. These are summarized:

1. Patients can buy any amount of contact lenses they desire. I recently had a faxed request to verify a contact lens prescription. On the request, it stated that patient was purchasing a year's supply of contact lenses. When we pulled her records and checked her account status, we found that her contact lens prescription was written nearly a year ago. This prescription was technically still valid since it was valid for a year. This seems to allow the patient, who had already purchased contact lenses previously, to buy as many contact lenses as she desired. Let me warn you that there are patients who would NEVER see their eye doctor if they could buy contact lenses without a prescription. What provision do you have that the patients can buy only the amount of contact lenses that would last them until the next scheduled office visit? I do not believe that it was the intent of Congress to allow patients to use this law to avoid following their eye doctor's recommendations as to the frequency of examinations.
2. There does not seem to be a provision that allows the eye doctor to refuse to validate the prescription if it was already filled.
3. We have received requests for contact lens validations for patients who were never fit in contact lenses. What provision do you have that these customers are not allowed to purchase contact lenses?
4. It should be clear in any rules that you make that contact lens prescription validations can be refused if the patient has an outstanding balance with the practice.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Tim Conrad, M.D.