

**From:** cassie  
**Sent:** Friday, March 19, 2004 2:06 PM  
**To:** CONTACTLENSRULE  
**Subject:** contact lens, individual responsibility and physician cash flow

Having been an ophthalmic nurse for a group of ophthalmologists I understand that the contact lens dispensation portion of a practice can be its most lucrative. My particular position involved scrubbing for ophthalmic surgeries and contact lens instruction for patients.

The outcry from physicians is that patients will be wearing contact lenses without "supervision" and may experience disease that goes unrecognized. The cost added to contact lens purchases through a physician covers this most "urgent" need.

Yet when a patient presents with a complication involving a lens these same physicians are very quick to point out that the patient was noncompliant with wearing instructions and the physician carries no responsibility...

The days of the paternal doctor-patient relationship are long over and contact lens prescriptions are part of the medical record which should be available to any healthcare consumer other than a minor or a psychiatric patient for whom records could be dangerous.

Rachel