

From: Philip Gibbs
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2004 2:00 PM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: Project Rule No. 411002

Dear FTC,

My contact lens supplier has informed me that as part of this proposed rule there is a possibility that I may have to wait days for contact lenses versus having them shipped to me in hours. I wanted to go on record that I see no value in this rule and also see it as an infringement on me personally.

My eye doctor, Dr. John Bigger, of GA has no problem supplying me with my contact prescription. And even though my contacts are supplied by a 3rd party, I have routine checkups at Dr. Bigger's office.

The 3rd party supplier adds benefit to this overall process because with their sales volume, my contacts are always in stock should I need new lenses. The scale or volume through Dr. Bigger's office is just not sufficient for them to maintain such an investment in inventory. In addition, the 3rd party supplier passes the savings onto to me, the final consumer. This is something unheard of in these days of skyrocketing medical costs.

A previous eye doctor insisted that I get my lenses through him. However, although he could obtain the lenses at the same or similar price as my current 3rd party supplier, he almost doubled the cost to me. This was in addition to the medical/check-up fees and the premium for being a contact lens wearer I had already paid. I failed to see the fairness which is why I switched to my current doctor.

So in conclusion I must ask the benefit of this proposed rule. Is it for my personal safety or some medical benefit to me? Not from my perspective. I receive exceptional medical care from my current provider. Is it a cost savings for me? Not from my perspective and it is probably a cost increase in that it adds another seemingly unnecessary piece of regulation to the U.S. agency law base. Does it make my medical eye care more accessible? No, it makes it less because I wait for days for what use to come in literally hours. Does it potentially aid Doctors like my previous doctor who was using rules (e.g., preventing me from getting my prescription (past rule)) to increase his bottom line at my expense? It sounds like it to me.

If you are truly concerned about people's health, don't make them wait for the prescription or lenses. This isn't a hand gun. Maybe just make sure their prescription is current by looking at the date so we can be assured they are getting proper medical care. Why should I have to wait so I can see?

Philip W. Gibbs

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P.S. Please note that this letter will be forwarded to my local congressional representatives also.