

From: Mertz2020
Sent: Friday, April 02, 2004 4:49 PM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: [Docket No: 3084-AA95];[FR Doc: 04-02235];[Page 5439-5450]; Trade regulation rul

Dear sirs,

I have practiced Optometry for 17 years. The passive verification process for contact lens prescriptions is a coup for the 1 800 CONTACT companies but an insult to Optometry. In keeping with the Stark rule for release of eyeglass prescriptions, I have no problem releasing a contact lens prescription to a patient once a valid Rx has been determined (per this new law). Since a contact Rx must be released to the patient anyway, why can't the patient send (by mail or fax) their Rx to the contact lens seller. The Rx should have an expiration date if written correctly and Doctors offices would not need to be bothered by them for verification. If they have a question regarding the Rx they can call the Doctor's office as a Pharmacy would do if it were a medication Rx. This would make it a lot easier on Doctors offices, and if the Contact sellers sold contacts past the expiration date they would face stiff penalties.

Please give this careful consideration, thank you.

Sincerely,

John J. Mertzlufft, OD
President Hillsborough Society of Optometrists