

From: Jerry Aldridge
Sent: Saturday, April 03, 2004 9:23 AM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: New Federal Contact Lens legislation

Yesterday I saw a patient who is a perfect example of why this legislation is not in the patient's best interest. Contact lenses are NOT a commodity--they are a medical device, capable of perfecting vision, but also capable of causing harm. This woman's last eye exam was five years ago in another city. She was wearing contact lenses. Her right cornea had a large area of new blood vessel growth which had probably occurred because of contact lens overwear.

Encouraging patients to take their prescription and have it filled by a supplier who disregards expiration dates by not allowing time and adequate phone or FAX lines for doctors to communicate with them is a disservice to the American public. If doctors are forced to comply with this law, then suppliers should be forced to comply with expiration dates as well. It is a public health issue.

Sincerely,
Karen S. Aldridge, O.D.
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