



Mallinger and Eger
OPTOMETRIC ASSOCIATES PC

The Center for Primary Eye Care

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The National Contact Lens Enforcement Petition
Docket # 2003P-0291

To Whom It May Concern:

I am requesting that this letter be made a part of the above docket. I am writing to request that contact lenses of all brands and types, including non-prescription and colored lenses, be strictly regulated by the FDA.

As an example of how important this issue is, I will outline 2 cases. I have had numerous experiences where a patient who was new to my office had purchased lenses at an establishment that was less than optimal. I have 2 separate female patients who bought colored, non-prescription 2 week disposable lenses from The Dollar Store. Both of these patients were new to my office and came in with flaring, red eyes. They both were diagnosed with corneal ulcers secondary to over wearing these contact lenses. Both women had worn 2 week disposable lenses for over 4 months.

These women are examples as to why the current regulations are not enough. First, they purchased lenses from an establishment that did not have a licensed, qualified eye doctor on the premises. Second, they did not have a prescription for such lenses. Third, they were never educated on the correct way to wear or care for the contact lenses. Fourth, they were never educated on the amount of time to wear them before disposing of them. Fifth and most importantly, their eye health and vision suffered for this lack of care.

The correct way for contact lenses, prescription or plano, to be fitted and dispensed is under the strict supervision of an eye doctor. The patient should be seen for a yearly refraction and eye health check. Contact lenses should be put in the eyes and evaluated under a microscope for minute changes in the physiology of the eye. The prescription is then checked over the contact lenses to assure correct vision. The patient is then educated on the wear and care of the lenses, including how to put them in and out. The patient then wears the lens for one week and returns to the eye doctor after wearing the lenses for 4 hours or more. This visit assures that the lenses do not become too tight and that the health and acuity are still acceptable. It also gives us an opportunity to make sure the patient has no questions or problems. In many occasions, we will also see that patient at 1 month and 6 months during the first year of contact lens wear. These steps are what assure a successful contact lens patient. Anything less is unacceptable.

- Services
- Eye Health Examination
- Refraction
- Treatment of Anterior Ocular Disease
- Contact Lens Design
- Quality Frames and Lenses
- Ocular Diagnostic Services
- Retinal Photography
- Visual Fields
- Low Vision
- Functional Visual and Perceptual Testing and Training
- Refractive Surgery Management

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We need to have stronger regulations in place and the FDA needs to be diligent in enforcing these regulations. I am not against patients being able to purchase lenses in places other than my office, but I want my patients to be safe.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH Eger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maria Higgins Eger, O.D., F.A.A.O.