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FDA CONTACT LENS ISSUE
OPEN DOCKET # 03D-0118
FAX # 301-827-6870

Gentlemen,

We would request that this communication be made part of the above referenced docket under public comment.

As practitioners with an accumulated over 40 years of clinical experience in contact lens patient care, we respectfully request that ALL contact lenses, vision correcting and cosmetic, be considered prescription medical devices.

Contact lenses can be a superlative manner of visual correction. But this form of correction comes with attendant risks, and the possibility of permanent loss of functional vision.

Over the years, we have seen many cases of what is considered contact lens abuse; patients who wear their contact lenses in a cavalier and harmful manner. Examples from our office include a young girl treated for a corneal ulcer, which resulted in a permanent corneal scar; a young male adult for blood vessel encroachment in the cornea and sterile inflammatory corneal infiltrates; and another woman for a bacterial infection due to improper handling of soft contacts.

These patients had been seen on a regular basis, with frequent reminders of the possible consequence of improper contact lens maintenance and wearing schedules and still have experienced problems. Imagine what can befall patients without regular care.

If informed, well cared for, patients have experienced this level of eye health problems, we have to believe that releasing these medicals devices to non-prescription status would result in many more cases of eye infections and loss of best-corrected vision in the public.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Knutson, O.D.
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