

## **Virginia Board of Optometry Guidance on End of a Contact Lens Fitting**

[18VAC105-20-45\(C\)\(2\)](#) requires an optometrist to provide a patient with a copy of the patient's contact lens prescription at the end of the contact lens fitting, even if the patient does not request it.

The “end” of a contact lens fitting is determined by the following definition, taken from the Contact Lens Rule of the Federal Trade Commission:

Contact lens fitting means the process that begins after an initial eye examination for contact lenses and **ends** when a successful fit has been achieved or, in the case of a renewal prescription, ends when the prescriber determines that no change in the existing prescription is required, and [contact lens fitting] may include:

- (1) An examination to determine lens specifications;
- (2) Except in the case of a renewal of a contact lens prescription, an initial evaluation of the fit of the contact lens on the eye; and
- (3) Medically necessary follow-up examinations.

[16 C.F.R. § 315.2](#) (emphasis added).

For further information regarding the Contact Lens Rule of the Federal Trade Commission go to <http://business.ftc.gov/documents/bus63-complying-contact-lens-rule> or <http://www.ftc.gov/os/2004/06/040629contactlensrulefrn.pdf>

[18VAC105-20-45\(C\)\(2\)](#) allows an optometrist to require all fees to be paid prior to providing the contact lens prescription at the end of the fitting, but only if the optometrist requires immediate payment from patients whose eye examinations reveal no need for corrective eye products. The Board states that proof of valid insurance coverage constitutes “payment” for this provision.