

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

Applicable Regulation

Regulations of the Virginia Board of Optometry

18VAC105-20-45. Standards of practice.

C. Contact lens.

2. An optometrist shall 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 doesn't ask for it. An optometrist may first require all fees to be paid, but only if he requires immediate payment from patients whose eye examinations reveal no need for corrective eye products.

Guidance

The Board of Optometry voted that the “end” of a contact lens fitting is determined by the following definition taken from The Contact Lens Rule of the Federal Trade Commission (16 C.F.R. §§ 315.1):

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.

Proof of valid insurance coverage counts as payment.

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>