

From: John Walters O.D.
Sent: Monday, April 05, 2004 10:16 AM
To: CONTACTLENSRULE
Subject: Regarding project 41102

To whom it may concern:

Mail order lens houses should not be able to assume it is ok to fill a prescription without verification from the Dr. I have had several requests from mail order houses to verify a prescription that I had never prescribed for a patient. In some cases, they have filled the prescription even after we have told them that we never issued it or that it was incorrect. One vendor has continued to fill expired prescriptions when there are medical reasons that a patient should not have a refill without seeing the Dr.

I feel that every patient is entitled to shop where they would like. I also feel that the dispensing of lenses by mail order vendors should be more tightly regulated. A vendor should not be able to assume a patient can have a prescription just because they are unable to contact the Dr. at that minute. What happens when an independent practitioner is on vacation? If a patient was initially issued a prescription the patient should be responsible for holding on to it. If the prescription is lost, the patient should have to wait until someone in the office can provide another copy.

One other issue is medical contact lenses ordered from special labs. Lens manufacturing and parameters can vary from one lens lab to another. Some lens designs are proprietary and can only be made by certain labs. These lenses should be checked on the patients eye to verify fit and to rule out defects before they are dispenses. Some of these labs only sell lenses to doctors.

Thank you for reviewing some of my concerns.

Sincerely,

John L. Walters, O.D.