



SB933 Dangerous for Oregon Contact Lens Wearers

SB 933 fails to address any of the patient health and safety concerns Congress, the Federal Trade Commission, the AOA and state associations or concerned doctors and patients expressed about the Internet contact lens sales industry.

These national companies are working in 14 state legislatures, as well as at the federal level, to pave the way to eliminating the federally mandated and regulated role of medical eye practitioners in the diagnosis, prescription, fitting and monitoring of contact lenses.

Dr. Carol E. Marusich OD, MS, FCOVD, of Lifetime Eye Care in Eugene, best explains how critical it is for the doctor patient relationship to drive the medical diagnosis, prescription, fitting and monitoring of these federally regulated medical devices known as “contact lenses”. She states that “When a contact lens prescription is written, it includes:

- ❖ Curvature of the ocular surface of the lens that sits up against the eye
- ❖ Diameter of the lens which assures that the cornea has adequate coverage by the lens so the blood vessels on the corneal edge are not disrupted and that it centers appropriately on the eye
- ❖ Distance power, the rotation alignment for astigmatism as well as the add power for a multifocal
- ❖ Material which determines the oxygen transmitted by the lens and how it stays wet on the eye
- ❖ Wearing schedule (some people can only wear a contact lens safely for a few hours while others can sleep in them safely) and the Dr. needs to decide that for each individual patient
- ❖ Replacement cycle (some lenses can stay clean and last a full month on one patient's eye while the same lens may need to be replaced sooner on another patient's eye due to protein or lipid build-up on the lens) and the Dr. needs to decide that for each individual patient

Different lenses even within the same company brand can have different curvatures, diameters, power orientation, materials and FDA wearing schedule recommendations (some daily wear, some extended wear). Even within the same company, an optometrist or ophthalmologist may have 60 or more choices based on the many factors above for a particular patient at a particular time. Many of these factors can change over time, which is why it is the law for a valid and timely prescription be required each year.

The patient would be in no position to choose a brand or specific lens parameters, nor would they be able to determine what a safe wearing and replacement schedule would be. Their Dr. needs to see the lens worn on the eye over a period of time to determine this.”