FDA DOCKET # 2003P-0291

07-10-03

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in regards to the National Contact Lens Enforcement Petition. The sensitivity of this topic is one that must be taken seriously, because the health of the eye is first and foremost my main objective as an optometric physician. I have a few examples of why there should be a national contact lens enforcement, and would like to share them with you.

1. I have patients getting their contact lenses through some source other than my practice that are the wrong prescription and base curve and then coming to me wondering why they cannot see or why they are having problems with their eyes. I'm not sure how they are getting them because they are not within the prescription expiration date.

2. One night I came into the office at 8 PM, of which I am almost never here, and a fax came in from 1-800-CONTACTS stating that I needed to respond within 8 hours or the prescription for the patient would be filled automatically. Now I dont know many Optometrists that have their office open all night to reply to these faxes, but I would dare say that there are not any open at these outrageous times. And to add to this list... the prescription and base curve were wrong for this patient as well. So, not only did this Rx come in during the middle of the night, but it had the wrong prescription.

3. I have also had patients in the Extended Wear Contact Lenses (EWCL), under my care that have missed follow up appointments and overworn their one month EWCL's by one or two weeks and as a result have gotten corneal ulcers, which are a serious threat to vision. And this lens is suppossed to be the most healthy lens on the market for the eye. And I'm sure there are other patients out there that are abusing the different contact lenses that don't breathe as well as these are having even worse complications.

I'm sure the list could go on and on, but my reasons for writing this are that patients should not be left alone in deciding when and how to wear contact lenses. They should be followed and monitored closely on their contact lens wear and prescriptions. I dont want to be the reason that someone loses eyesight due to contact lens abuse. Please put into law monitoring of contact lenses and contact lens prescritions. This is a very serious subject! Please help us treat it as such.

Sincerely,

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Message:

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