

WYOMING BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY

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Wyoming Optometry License Holder,

The Wyoming Board of Examiners in Optometry (Board) is endeavoring to ensure that all licensees are fitting contact lenses in accordance with the Board's Rules and Regulations and Practice Act. There have been some concerns that optometrists are providing contact lenses to patients without ensuring that the lenses are adequately fitted to the patient.

As a reminder, the Board's Practice Act provides:

An optometrist shall provide, at no additional cost to the patient, a written copy of his contact lens prescription. The prescription shall only be released after the contact lenses have been adequately fitted and no more follow-up visits are necessary to assure the contact lenses fit the patient. The essential information necessary to duplicate the prescription shall be defined by rules adopted by the board. All contact lens prescriptions shall have an expiration date after which it shall be unlawful to fill such prescription. The prescribing optometrist shall not be liable for any injury or condition to a patient resulting from negligence in packaging, manufacturing or dispensing lenses by anyone other than the prescribing optometrist. Any person may file a complaint with the board seeking disciplinary action concerning any violation of this subsection. The board shall investigate or cause to be investigated and shall resolve a complaint on its own motion or upon receipt of a written complaint as provided by W.S. 33-23-110. No person shall improperly fill a contact lens prescription or fill an expired prescription.

Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-23-101(d). Furthermore, Chapter 7 of the Board's Rules and Regulations provide:

The conduct set forth below constitutes "incompetence, malpractice or unethical conduct" as referenced in WYO. STAT. § 33-23-110(b):

(i) Practicing in a manner that is not in the best interest of the public and endangers public health, safety and welfare;

...

(iv) Failing to:

(J) Release a contact lens prescription to the patient in accordance with federal law without all of the following information: expiration date, wearing schedule, care regimen, and all necessary parameters essential to fabricating a contact lens;

Bd. of Optometry Rules and Regulations, Chapter 7, Section 2(d).

As the Board continues to strive toward the best in public protection, we ask that you ensure you are in compliance with the Board's Rules and Regulations and Practice Act. If you have any questions, please contact the Board Office.

Thank you,

Dr. Coby Ramsey, O.D.
Board President