

**SCD Guidelines for Ohio Licensed Spectacle Dispensing Opticians – October 3, 2015**  
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Introduction:

Recent legislation passed in Ohio has changed the scope of practice for spectacle licensed dispensing opticians in Ohio. Effective January 1, 2016, spectacle licensed opticians will be permitted to dispense prepackaged contact lenses when the only action necessary is to match the information on the package to a written prescription. It is important for spectacle dispensing opticians to understand not only the impact of the law change on their legal scope of practice but also how to interpret the written prescription, the limits of their scope of practice, and understanding the vast differences in lens design. The course will also cover how to identify each type of lens for patient safety as well as providing information regarding related products and their safe uses.

**This course has been approved for the SCD continuing education requirements for spectacle optician's 2016 Ohio licensure renewal.**

Course Length: Two hours

1. Self Evaluation to be completed – 10 questions
  - a. This is an assessment to test knowledge level and will be reviewed at completion of the lecture
2. Understanding your role, how has it changed and what are your obligations
  - a. Specific questions related to the law should be directed to your regulatory or licensing board
  - b. What types of circumstances must you always clarify before proceeding or dispensing product of any type
  - c. Are you obligated to dispense contacts?

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3. Understanding the prescription
  - a. What do you know?
  - b. How are spectacle and contact lens prescriptions really different? Could they easily be confused or misinterpreted?
  - c. What's considered a "legal" prescription?
  - d. Expiration dates- limits when it comes to quantities related to how soon Rx expires
  - e. Professional and ethical judgement

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4. Health Care- Anatomy

- a. Why do you need to know this?
- b. What should you know?
- c. What do patients expect you to know?
- d. What is your responsibility in this case?
- e. Overview of anatomy and how it related to contact lens wear

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5. Contact Lens Designs/Types

- a. Which ones fall into the category of pre-packaged lenses?
  - i. Spheres
  - ii. Toric contacts
  - iii. Multifocals
  - iv. Traditional lenses that last a years vs. disposable
  - v. Daily or single use lenses
  - vi. Any others that may fit the “pre-packaged” classification
  - vii. How do bi-torics and specialty lenses fit into scope of practice?
  - viii. What about private label brands?
  - ix. Can you substitute? Generics?
  - x. May I get tinted/colored contacts if my Rx does not stipulate?
  - xi. What if the prescription does not allow for generics

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6. Materials

- a. Which ones will you need to be familiar with?
- b. Latest generations, product patients may ask you about

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7. Modalities

- a. Daily, extended or other which includes the occasional wearer
- b. What role do you play in this decision if any
- c. How do you know what the prescribers intentions were if not documented and should you be concerned about this?
- d. Just because a lens is approved for 2 weeks or 30 days what should you tell the patient?
- e. Best practices and professional conduct

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8. Your role when it's no longer a simple transaction- patient challenges

- a. patient has pain
- b. redness
- c. vision problems
- d. Is this related to a damaged contact and what is your role?
- e. or may not be happy with lenses prescribed
- f. you may need to triage as you would in in other circumstance
- g. What should you do?

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9. Routine questions regarding proper care and solutions you need to be prepared for (5 min)

- a. Again, what is your role?
- b. Best practice, where should this information have come from in the first place and how can you be sure you don't create an issue

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10. Typical lens care products and insertion and removal directions

- a. Insertions and removal – not part of dispensing “pre-packaged” contacts
- b. Most lens disinfection is chemical (heat was used years ago)
- c. If advice is given on solutions seek guidance whenever you are unsure. Again, you may want to refer them back to eye care doctor or fitter.

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11. Unusual situations that may arise

- a. What to do, how to triage

12. Overview- knowing the law and how to best serve your customers

- a. Post lecture quiz and question session (10-minutes)