



# Consumer Notice

Optometrists are required to provide patients with a copy of their ophthalmic lens prescription as follows: (see [OAR 852-020-0031](#) for more information)

- An optometric physician must immediately give the signed written prescription to the patient at the time the doctor would provide spectacles or contact lenses without additional examination, even if the patient does not request the prescription. The optometric physician must confirm prescription release after final contact lens fitting through one of the following methods:
- The prescriber shall provide a contact lens prescription within 40 business hours of the receipt of the request. Prescriber shall note in the patient's record the name of the requestor and the date and time the prescription was provided.
- Upon direct communication from the patient or anyone designated to act on behalf of the patient, an optometric physician must release or verify the patient's prescription to a third party. The patient cannot be required to sign a waiver or release as a condition of verifying a prescription.
- The prescription is deemed to be officially signed when first issued to the patient. If the examining optometric physician wishes to delegate signature authority for subsequent copies of a valid spectacle or contact lens prescription, exact copies may be dispensed by a designee following the doctor's written policy for ensuring prescription validity. Under no circumstances may an optometric physician delegate authority to alter the prescription, its expiration date or the number of refills for contact lenses.
- If a patient has not completed a contact lens fitting, the prescription released need only meet the spectacle prescription requirements.
- An optometric physician may not:
  - Require purchase of contact lenses or spectacles from any party as a condition of providing a copy of the prescription or verification of the prescription.
  - Require payment in addition to or as a part of the fee for an eye examination, fitting, and evaluation as a condition of providing a copy of a prescription or verification of a prescription; or
  - Require the patient to sign a waiver or release as a condition of releasing or verifying a prescription.
- Optometric physicians must release a written request for patient records within 14 days, including prescriptions.

The Oregon Board of Optometry regulates optometry in Oregon. The Board receives and investigates all consumer complaints involving optometry in Oregon.

**Oregon Board of Optometry** 1500 Liberty St SE, Ste 210  
Salem, OR 97302

Phones: 971-701-1194 or 971-701-1603 Fax 503-914-5142

Website: [www.oregon.gov/obo](http://www.oregon.gov/obo) (file a complaint online)