CONTACT LENS PRACTICE IN THE 21ST CENTURY?

Currently, all opticians are allowed to prescribe and fit contact lenses, but only a minority of ‘Medical Optometrists’ have the qualifications and experience to treat potential contact lens related complications.

Yet contact lenses are designated a ‘medical device’ and as such should necessitate a standard of medical expertise on the part of the practitioner. The extremely rudimentary medical knowledge of the majority of contact lens practitioners constitutes a societal health risk.

Further, when an optician refers a patient to an eye hospital with a contact lens related complication, the patient’s GP surgery is charged by Secondary Care. This is an unnecessary financial burden on Primary Care. Indeed it can be argued the cost of contact lens complications, as a privately purchased commodity, should not be borne by primary or secondary care.

The normal contact lens patient journey post contact lens related adverse event.

- **We fit lenses**
- **We create issues**
- **We refer to REAL Clinicians when things go WRONG**
- **Medical Device**
- **Optometrists: CL Clinicians or Technicians?**
- **#1Risk Factor for MK**
- **Significant cause of Inflammatory Events**

GP surgery is charged by secondary Care for resolving an optician induced issue.

This is optometry NORMAL
So never questioned
CONTACT LENSES AND CLARITY

Please view our patient testimonial on the Website; Pauline explains the importance of Clarity. (Click on the image to go to the short interview).

The most important aspect of 'Clarity' is instant access to Medical (Independent Prescribing) Optometrists. As a 'Medical Device' we feel a medical clinician is vital for a comprehensive contact lens service. We are the only practice in Northumberland committed to permanent, qualified 'Medical (IP) Optometrists'. The ability to prescribe ocular drugs immediately, without referral to hospital, eliminates enormous inconvenience and cost in time for the patient. Linked with our 'Instant Access', we believe patients should value this service most.

When monitoring treatments we also have an out-of-hours emergency number to ensure peace of mind. Our policy dictates a 'Medical IP Optometrist' is always on the premises during opening hours. If you attend as an emergency you WILL be seen without additional charges.

Click on the images to access our ‘Clarity’ Fact Sheet.

Clarity supplies a service, not simply contact lenses.

Clarity includes:
1. Access to Medical (Independent Prescribing) Optometrists
As a 'Medical Device' we feel a medical clinician is vital for a comprehensive contact lens service. We are the only practice in Northumberland committed to permanent, qualified 'Medical (IP) Optometrists'. The ability to prescribe ocular drugs immediately, without referral to hospital, eliminates enormous inconvenience and cost in time for the patient. Linked with our 'Instant Access', we believe patients should value this service most.

2. Instant Access to Care for emergencies
You are buying instant access to the clinician. Our policy dictates a 'Medical IP Optometrist' is always on the premises during opening hours. If you attend as an emergency you WILL be seen without additional charges.

3. Routine professional care throughout the period of wear
This is a legal and clinical necessity. We allocate half an hour for this professional service. Time is necessary for any comprehensive clinical service and must never be undervalued.

4. Fitting and refitting of lenses as required.
As a thorough check and advisory process is not only to ensure ocular health. It demands time to mould the lens to reflect your lifestyle needs. Our extended care ensures our patients have a personal service.

5. The price of the lenses
A body optometrist on our priority list for the patient. It is unlikely the actual contact lenses can be found cheaper on any internet site; please check and compare with our website, www.aarsonsoptometrists.com.

Extra benefits include:
Replacement contact lenses due to loss, tears or breakage can usually be replaced free. 20% discount on spectacle prescribed.