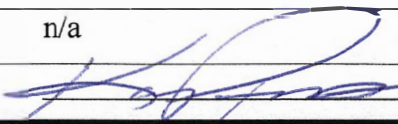


Department of Health
Office of Health Professions and Facilities

Interpretive or Policy Statement

Title:	Prescriptions written on tamper-resistant paper or pad.	Number: OD 13-01
References:	RCW 18.64.500(1)(9), WAC 246-851-520, and WAC 246-852-030(2)	
Contact:	Program Manager Board of <u>Optometry</u>	
Phone:	360-236-4947	
Email:		
Effective Date:	March 22, 2013	
Supersedes:	n/a	
Approved By:	 Chair, Board of Optometry	

Because pharmacists may be authorized to sell contact lenses and because a pharmacist may not fill a written prescription unless it is written on an approved tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper, written contact lens prescriptions that can be purchased from any authorized seller must be written on a tamper resistant prescription pad or paper.

In order to provide clarity on the requirements for a valid contact lens prescription as defined by WAC 246-851-520 and 246-852-030(2), the Board of Optometry issues this interpretive statement under RCW 34.05.010(8) and 34.05.230.

The Fairness to Contact Lens Consumer Act prohibits a prescriber from requiring the “purchase of contact lenses from the prescriber or from another person as a condition of providing a copy of a prescription.” (15 U.S.C. § 7601(1)). In addition, RCW 18.64.500(1) requires that “Effective, July 1, 2010, every prescription written in this state by a licensed practitioner must be written on a tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper approved by the board [of pharmacy].” Furthermore, “[a] pharmacist may not fill a written prescription from a licensed practitioner unless it is written on an approved tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper.” (RCW 18.64.500(2)).

In order to ensure that prescription lens prescribers are meeting their obligation to provide written contact lens prescriptions to patients for lenses that can be purchased from any authorized seller under applicable laws, the Optometry Board interprets WAC 246-851-520 and 246-852-030(2) to require such written prescriptions to be issued on a tamper resistant prescription pad or paper approved by the Board of Pharmacy.

The tamper-resistant prescription pad or paper requirements do not apply to prescriptions that are transmitted to the pharmacy by telephone, facsimile or electronic means.

This interpretative statement does not alter or modify the content requirements of a valid contact lens prescription as required by any other state or federal rules or laws such as WAC 246-852-005(4).

Written contact lens prescriptions that can be purchased from any authorized seller must be written on a tamper resistant prescription pad or paper.