

edema, stippling or permanent change in the initial "K" reading, after the adaptation period.

Much of this, has been made possible during the past 15 years, by non-medical personnel doing research, in the manufacture of contact lenses and technics in fitting. Much more research in lens design, new materials and fitting technics are necessary. Equally important and in my opinion more important at this time, is the medical research, necessary to evaluate histological changes in corneal tissue, immediate, temporary and long term, by the contact lens, which may affect the visual functions.

We are aware, that a contact lens when placed on the eye, may alter tissue and the changes may be permanent. The ophthalmologist who writes a prescription for contact lenses and sends the patient to the contact lens technician or qualified optician and closes the case, is not fulfilling his duty to that patient and can be held legally responsible for neglect, if this patient suffers eye damage.

The physician must exercise direction and supervision of the (technician) optician, consistent with the qualifications of the optician and the needs of the patient.

It is not the duty or responsibility of the contact lens technician to advise or recommend therapy concerning pain, redness, use of medications, etc. The patient should be referred back immediately and emphatically to the ophthalmologist for any necessary recommendations.

Optometry is continually questioning the right of the ophthalmologist to delegate to a contact lens technician what they claim medicine would deny the optometrist. Their argument may appeal to the uninformed but has no merit in fact. What must be clearly understood, is that the qualified optician or contact lens technician is not fitting contact lens independently but is working under the direction and supervision of the ophthalmologist, thereby insuring a maximum of safety in the fitting and wearing of these lenses.

This card is used in Cincinnati to clarify the position of the ophthalmologist.

I fully understand that the fitting of my Contact Lenses is to be performed under the *Direction and Supervision* of my Ophthalmologist (eye physician). During the time I am being fitted I am to be subject to *his Judgment and Care* concerning the condition of my eye health with relation to the Contact Lenses. I am fully aware of the importance of medical supervision in the fitting and wearing of Contact Lenses and unqualifiedly agree to cooperate with my Ophthalmologist.

Signed _____

Date _____

"What may a physician legally delegate to an ophthalmic technician?" These duties are usually not specifically spelled out in the Medical Practice Acts of the State or in the Regulations of the Board of Medical Examiners.

The physician has the duty to provide for the patient the therapy indicated. He has the authority under the Medical Practice Act to have certain procedures performed for the patient instead of doing them personally.

The use of an appliance placed on the eyeball (an ocular prosthesis) ocular tonography and tonometry and numerous other technical procedures used in the practice of ophthalmology are procedures that can be performed by the trained and qualified technician as part of medical care rendered to the patient by the physician.

The services of the technician are not supplementary or complementary to the physicians services, but are an important part of it.

The technicians' services, do not replace the physician's care of the patient but facilitates and expedites that care. The technician assists the physician in helping him fulfill his responsibility to the patient.

The technical fitting of the contact lens, (including K readings), the grinding of the intermediate and peripheral curves and their