

Important Information For Our Contact Lens Patients

The doctors and staff at **Choate Eye Associates** provide exceptional contact lens services. Because of our reputation for excellence in this area, we enjoy many referrals for consultations from area physicians, as well as existing patients. If you are interested in contact lenses, or currently wear contact lenses, one of our doctors can discuss your options with you. Our recommendations are individually tailored to each patient, and are based upon many factors, including your glasses prescription, visual needs, overall health, and eye health.

What is a contact lens evaluation?

A contact lens evaluation is a **separate part** of a comprehensive eye examination, and requires additional testing that people who do not wear contact lenses do not need. Patients who wear contact lenses require more time and expertise from the doctors and staff.

In order to prescribe contact lenses we must complete several additional tests:

1. Assess the overall health of the cornea, eyelids, and conjunctiva as to how a contact lens might affect these ocular structures during the wear cycle.
2. Careful measurement of pupil size and corneal diameter
3. Computerized corneal mapping with a corneal topographer to aid in initial lens design, as well as following the cornea for changes after the fit.
4. Diagnostic fitting, where lenses are placed on the eye and evaluated for centration, movement and overall visual acuity.
5. Arriving at an initial contact lens prescription.
6. Proper training on insertion, removal, and handling of contact lenses.
7. Proper training on care of lenses and wear schedule, as well as replacement cycle.
8. Development of a care plan for follow up after contact lenses are dispensed.

Contact lens examinations and fittings require differing levels of complexity and clinical skill on the part of the doctor and staff. For that reason, fees will vary significantly based upon a patient's ocular health, glasses prescription, visual demands, and activities away from work.

Why is the contact lens evaluation separate from the comprehensive eye examination fee?

All vision plans and insurance companies recognize the additional time and expertise involved in contact lens services, so they require that these services be separated from the routine eye examination.

What is a contact lens prescription?

Contact lenses are medical devices that can only be dispensed with a proper prescription. A contact lens prescription must be regarded by the patient with the same caution and respect as

prescription drugs. Contact lens prescriptions typically expire after one year or sooner if the doctor determines a medical reason for a shorter expiration date. This typically occurs with patients who do not comply with proper follow-up care, and instructions related to lens wear. The elements of a contact lens prescription include power, material, base curve, secondary curves, diameter, and lens type.

Your eyes will go through gradual changes in size, shape, and physiological requirements (such as oxygen) while wearing contact lenses. The changes can affect the health of the cornea and lids, as well as comfort and safety of wear. As such, these changes must be monitored with a comprehensive examination at least once a year. Even though you may have no symptoms with your contact lens wear does not mean you might not have early issues that need attention. For that reason, the federal and state governments require that contact lens prescriptions have an expiration date of no longer than one year.

Patient or Guardian Signature

Date