



Illinois Department of Corrections

Administrative Directive

Number: 04.03.123	Title: Contact Lenses	Effective: 9/1/2021
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Authorized by:	<i>[Original Authorized Copy on File]</i> Rob Jeffreys Director
Supersedes:	04.03.123 effective 9/1/2013 amended 12/1/2013

Authority: 730 ILCS 5/3-2-2 DR 535	Related ACA Standards: 5-ACI-4A-15, 5-ACI-4B-15, 5-ACI-6A-40
Referenced Policies:	Referenced Forms:

I. **POLICY**

The Department shall restrict the use of contact lenses to those individuals in custody who have a medical need for such devices as determined by the Facility Medical Director or the Agency Medical Director.

II. **PROCEDURE**

A. **Purpose**

The purpose of this directive is to establish uniform guidelines to ensure that the use of contact lenses among individuals in custody is restricted to those with a medical need or visual disturbance which cannot be effectively corrected with eyeglasses.

B. **Applicability**

This directive is applicable to all correctional facilities, excluding Transitional Security facilities, within the Department.

C. **Facility Reviews**

A facility review of this directive shall be conducted at least annually.

D. **Definitions**

Medical need – includes cataract excision with aphakia, corneal scarring, visual defects that cannot be adequately corrected with eyeglasses because of corneal irregularities or other focusing defects and other medical conditions defined by an ophthalmologist or optometrist which prevent adequate vision correction without the use of contact lenses.

E. **Requirements**

1. All individuals in custody entering reception and classification centers who have contact lenses shall be identified and then evaluated within 30 days of arrival at their permanent facility for medical need for contact lenses.
2. Individuals in custody who have no demonstrable medical need for contact lenses shall be referred to the optometrist or ophthalmologist for examination for replacement eyeglasses. Following the evaluation, eyeglasses shall be ordered and delivered to the individual in custody upon receipt.
 - a. While an individual in custody is waiting for eyeglasses, contact lens solutions shall be made available for use through the Health Care Unit at no cost to the individual in

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custody. A contact case shall be provided if the individual in custody doesn't already have one.

- b. Following receipt of the eyeglasses, the contact lenses shall be disposed of in accordance with Department Rule 535.
 3. Individuals in custody with a medical need for contact lenses shall be evaluated by an optometrist or ophthalmologist at least annually to determine the correctness of the current prescription and the condition of the lenses.
 - a. All solutions and other necessities for the care and maintenance of medically indicated contact lenses shall be provided by the facility's Health Care Unit at no cost to the individual in custody.
 - b. Replacement lenses shall be provided at an appropriate schedule as determined by the prescribing optometrist or ophthalmologist.
 - c. Individuals in custody who require more frequent replacement because of improper handling of the lenses or through general carelessness shall be required to incur the cost of the replacement lenses. This should be determined on a case-by-case basis. Individuals in custody without funds shall be furnished with replacement lenses and their trust fund accounts shall be restricted for the amount of the replacement lenses and the cost paid upon receipt of future funds.
 4. When there is a question about the medical need for contact lenses for a particular individual in custody, all information from the examining ophthalmologist or optometrist and input from the Facility's Medical Director shall be forwarded to the Office of Health Services. The final decision shall be made by the Agency Medical Director, forwarded to the Facility's Medical Director and filed in the individual in custody's Medical Record.
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