

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: 3/7/2017	NUMBER: G.59.2 Page 1 of 1
	Replaces: 9/24/2015	
	Formulated: 8/87 Reviewed: 10/2022	
OPTICAL PROSTHESES AND APPLIANCES		

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines to assure the provision of optical prostheses and appliances for pathological conditions as the need is identified by an optometrist or ophthalmologist.

POLICY:

- I. Eyeglasses are provided on a prescription basis. Eyeglasses will be replaced no earlier than every 24 months if determined by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to be necessary. Documented loss, broken eyeglasses with no evidence of self-destruction or newly diagnosed surgical conditions will be considered exceptions. The need for occupational lenses will be evaluated on an individual basis.
- II. Inmates with visual acuity worse than 20/50 near or far vision in the best eye who request glasses will be referred to optometry services. Inmates will be informed that they will have the option to request glasses in this case.
- III. Inmates with disposable contact lenses in his/her possession at intake will be required to dispose of the lenses at the termination of the FDA-approved usage interval. These inmates will have visual acuity checked without lenses and be referred to optometry services per policy guidelines. At intake if an inmate arrives with additional sealed packs of contact lenses, they will be maintained in the medical department and issued to the inmate when the previous pair expires. Contact lens solution will be provided to the inmate for the duration of contact lens wear only.
- IV. If an inmate is participating in programs and his/her visual acuity is worse than 20/100 in the best eye, an expedited referral to optometry services shall be made. In these cases, the programmatic activity should be noted when the referral is entered into the computer.
- V. Referrals may be made to optometry clinics, through the routine referral process, for prescription sunglasses, contact lenses or safety glasses for pathological or environmentally related ocular conditions. Replacement will be on the same basis as replacement for eyeglasses. Gas permeable contact lenses will be prescribed as clinically indicated. Routine contact lens maintenance supplies will be available as formulary, prescribed items.
- VI. All inmates with an ocular prosthetic device will be referred to the Ocular Prosthetic Clinic for routine prosthesis maintenance. Ocular prostheses referrals should be made through the routine referral process.

Reference: ACA Performance Standard & Expected Practice 5-6A-4375