EYEGLASS AND CONTACT LENSES PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING REGULATIONS BY PROVINCE

PROVINCE/TERRITORY	GLASSES	CONTACT LENSES
British Columbia	A patient may obtain an eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. A patient may also obtain specifications for eye glasses from a sight testing optician. Both the optical prescription and sight test results must include a measurement of the interpupillary distance. The patient can either use the eye glass prescription or the sight test specifications to purchase eyeglasses are available. Dispensing is deregulated in British Columbia.	A patient must have an optical prescription or specifications from a sight test to initiate a CL fitting. A patient must have an initial CL fitting done by an optometrist, physician, ophthalmologist or optician. Initial CLs may only be dispensed by the above regulated professionals. Replacement CLs can be dispensed indefinitely by anyone including internet CL sites.
Alberta	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Alberta. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Alberta.
Saskatchewan	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL

	and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Saskatchewan. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Saskatchewan.
Manitoba	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Manitoba. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Manitoba.
Ontario	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Ontario. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Ontario.
Quebec	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist,

	regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Quebec. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Quebec.
New Brunswick	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in New Brunswick. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in New Brunswick.
Nova Scotia	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Nova Scotia. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Nova Scotia.

Prince Edward Island	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Prince Edward Island. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Prince Edward Island.
Newfoundland and Labrador	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Newfoundland and Labrador. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Newfoundland and Labrador.
Northwest Territories	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A

	dispense eyeglasses in the Northwest Territories. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in NWT.
Yukon	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in the Yukon. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in the Yukon.
Nunavut	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, physician or ophthalmologist. The patient then can use that prescription to buy eyeglasses from a regulated dispensing professional. Optometrists, physicians, ophthalmologists and opticians are regulated to dispense eyeglasses in Nunavut. Eye glasses must be verified to match the prescription and they must be physically fitted to the patient.	A patient must have a valid eye glass prescription from an optometrist, ophthalmologist, or physician to initiate a CL fitting. A CL fitting is then performed by an optometrist, ophthalmologist, physician or optician. Once the fitting process is complete, a CL prescription is determined. A patient may purchase CLs from a licensed CL dispenser. Optometrists, ophthalmologists, physicians or opticians are regulated to dispense CLs in Nunavut.