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Connecticut Legislature Approves Online Prescription Renewal for Contact Lens Wearers

In “Big Win” for Consumers, Connecticut Joins New Mexico, Virginia and Other States in Allowing Telemedicine for Eye Care

Chicago, Illinois – The Connecticut General Assembly this week voted to allow online prescription renewal for contact lens wearers, representing a big win for consumers. In passing HB 6012, which Governor Dannel Malloy is expected to sign, Connecticut joins New Mexico, Virginia and numerous other states in advancing the use of ocular telemedicine to reduce costs for consumers and health care providers and to increase access to eye care.

“Opternative commends the members of the Connecticut legislature who passed a sensible solution that champions patient access while making sure safeguards are in place to protect the safety of all residents,” said **Dr. Steven Lee, OD, Chief Scientific Officer of Opternative**. “We look forward to working with the citizens of Connecticut to make sure the appropriate patients receive the most convenient, affordable and accurate care possible.”

The Connecticut legislation, HB 6012, requires an in-person eye exam for patients to obtain an initial prescription and for their first renewal of that prescription, but allows residents to use online prescription renewal services for any subsequent renewals. This requirement means that the vast majority of contact lens wearers, who are healthy and have previously had an in-person eye exam, will be allowed to use online prescription renewal services. Connecticut legislators emphasized this point during legislative debate on the bill.

As **Senator Terry Gerratana**, Chair of the Public Health Committee, said on the Senate floor, this bill makes clear that in Connecticut, “once the patient has had two in-person eye exams ... a patient can renew the prescription through a service that uses a remote refractive device.” A remote refractive device – which measures a person’s prescription for contact lenses – is one example of the technology that may now be used in Connecticut to provide online renewal services to residents.

Senator Len Fasano noted that, under this bill, “patients are free to seek care from the provider of their choice, who may use one of these remote refractive devices, as long as it’s consistent with our rules and regulations.”

Connecticut’s action follows similar moves in New Mexico, Virginia and other states to allow the use of ocular telemedicine to lower costs and improve access to eye care. In April, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez [vetoed](#) legislation that would have prohibited

online prescription renewal, arguing that “we should explore new technologies and opportunities to expand the availability of services, not prohibit them.” In March, eye care professionals and technology proponents in Virginia came together and agreed on a [bill](#), now signed into law, that allows for online vision tests in the state. Other states have taken similar actions.

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Contact:

Pete Horkan (773) 459-8859

About Opternative:

[Opternative](#), co-founded by Dr. Steven Lee, OD, offers patients the most convenient way to renew their prescription for glasses and contacts. Using our patented diagnostic technology, patients take a series of short vision tests online. Patient test results and relevant medical history are then shown to an eye care professional who is able to diagnose nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, emmetropia, and to prescribe glasses or contacts when appropriate. Opternative is meant to be used by patients between comprehensive eye exams, which we recommend at least once every two years. With a mission to help the world see and feel better, Opternative is making vision screening and prescription services accessible and affordable for everyone.