

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

March 2024

Dear Colleague,

Survey of Contact Lens Prescribing in Canada 2024

The Centre for Ocular Research & Education and the School of Optometry and Vision Science, University of Waterloo along with other research centres around the world, are collaborating with Eurolens Research, Department of Optometry, UMIST, Manchester, England, on a study to investigate the current state of contact lens prescribing in their respective countries. The benefit of this survey is to enable you as a practitioner to gain an understanding of current contact lens prescribing trends in Canada, as well as in other countries worldwide.

We have randomly selected the names of optometrists across the country from the membership list of the Canadian Association of Optometrists to receive the enclosed survey. Your participation is voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part in this survey. A decision not to take part in the study will have no impact on your relationship with the CAO. There are no known or anticipated risks associated to participation.

The questionnaire has been designed to be relatively easy to complete; if you agree to participate, you will be asked to fill in the details, such as lens type, wearing modality, solution type, of the next ten patients you fit with lenses. As you will see, the responses we seek are subdivided into various categories. Although you can decline to answer any of the questions, we would appreciate it if you could provide responses for each category. Please tick only one box in each category.

When you have completed the questionnaire on ten patients, please return the form to me, Debbie Jones, at the School of Optometry, in the postage paid envelope provided by the end of July 2024. Even if you have not fitted ten patients by this time, we would appreciate it if you would return the form.

No identifying information is being requested about patients or practitioners and only the aggregated information will be published and all information pertaining to the study **will be strictly confidential**. The data will be securely stored for 5 years within the Centre for Ocular Research & Education. The results will be published in optometric journals during the next year.

This study has been reviewed and received ethics clearance through a University of Waterloo Research Ethics Board (ORE# 30162). If you have questions for the Board contact the Office of Research Ethics, toll-free at 1-833-643-2379 (Canada & USA), 1-519-888-4440 or reb@uwaterloo.ca.

If you have any other inquiries regarding this project, you may contact me at (519) 888-4567 x 45934. Many thanks in anticipation of your assistance with this research.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Jones