General guidelines for approval and issue of contact lenses at Government expense

Contact lenses are approved to be purchased at government expense under the following circumstances only:

OCULAR CONDITIONS:

Monocular aphakia, extremely high degrees of anisometropia, keratoconus, or other ocular disorder states.

SPECIALIZED TYPES OF MILITARY DUTY IN A PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT PRECLUDES SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE USING ORDINARY SPECTACLES:

Navy and Marine Corps air crew members and Naval Special Warfare personnel (ie SEALS) whose operational effectiveness would be enhanced by wearing contact lenses.

Navy air crew members who cannot effectively utilize night vision devices with spectacles, protective eye equipment and other such devices. Spectacles are also unsatisfactory for operations which include diving as part of the mission, since spectacles cannot be worn with face masks.

DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR CONTACT LENSES NEEDED TO ENHANCE OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE MADE BY THE MEMBER'S UNIT. ELIGIBILITY MUST BE DOCUMENTED IN WRITING BY THE MEMBER'S COMMANDER PRIOR TO THE PROVISION OF CONTACT LENSES, SOLUTIONS OR FITTING/FOLLOW-UP CARE BY THE SUPPORTING MTF. ELIGIBILITY WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS THE MEMBER REMAINS ON HIS/HER CURRENT OPERATIONAL ASSIGNMENT.

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