



Contact Lenses and “Forever Chemicals”

A recent blog post reported on an analysis of contact lenses and the purported presence of organic fluorine in certain contact lenses, which has generated some national media coverage. Organic fluorine is a marker for Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS). PFAS are sometimes referred to as “forever chemicals.” Doctors of optometry may receive questions from concerned patients regarding the recent blog report and the resulting media coverage. Following is information to assist in discussing this issue with your patients. Doctors can also review the Contact Lens Institute’s statement on this issue [here](#).

- A recent blog post raised concerns regarding “forever chemicals” potentially in certain contact lenses.
- Contact lens manufacturers and the AOA are seeking additional information on the study cited, which has not been published in full.
- We have many questions and concerns about some of the conclusions from the study, but those cannot be answered until we get additional study information.
- **We know with certainty that soft contact lenses are required to meet rigorous health and safety standards and are reviewed and approved as medical devices by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.**
- Like all Americans, we are concerned about “forever chemicals” and their impact and are committed to obtaining accurate and actionable information.
- The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) provides information on PFAS](#), indicating that “human health effects from exposure to low environmental levels of PFAS are uncertain ... More research is necessary to assess the human health effects of exposure to PFAS.”
- As we learn more, we will share additional information.