

# Department of Veterans Affairs

# Memorandum

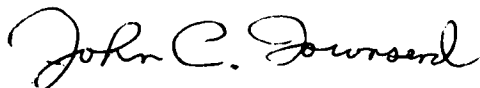
**Date:** January 5, 2009

**From:** Director, Optometric Service (111E1) and Program Director for Ophthalmology (111E2)

**Subj:** DSS Identifiers for Contact Lens Services

**To:** VA Optometrists and VA Ophthalmologists

1. The initial eye examination should be conducted in the Decision Support Service (DSS) Identifier 408 (Optometry) or 407 (Ophthalmology) clinic that may require a specialty care co-pay of \$50 for those veterans not exempt from the co-pay requirement.
2. After the initial eye examination, all subsequent visits for the purpose of fitting and/or making adjustments or modifications to contact lenses should be recorded using the secondary DSS Identifier 449 (Fittings and Adjustments) paired with the primary 408 or 407 DSS Identifier.
3. It is recommended that VA optometrists and VA ophthalmologists work with their local Decision Support Services (DSS) coordinators and Business Office (or designee office) representatives to institute these new Contact Lens Clinics utilizing DSS Identifier pair 408-449 or 407-449, as appropriate.
4. These paired 408-449 and 407-449 DSS Identifiers should be exempt from the specialty care co-pay requirement for veterans requiring multiple visits for provision of contact lens services.
5. If there are any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact either John C. Townsend, O.D., Director, Optometric Service at 410-779-1576 or James C. Orcutt, M.D., Ph.D., Program Director for Ophthalmology at 206-764-2320.



JOHN C. TOWNSEND, O.D.



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