



Eau Claire
2715 Damon St.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
cveclinic.com

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact:
Alisha Schweisthal
715-552-9380
aschweisthal@cveclinic.com

For Immediate Release

Buying Decorative Contact Lenses Without a Prescription: Be Very Afraid!

EAU CLAIRE, Wis. — Vampire eyes might be the perfect touch to your Halloween costume, but if you're thinking of getting contact lenses online, you might want to think again.

Some online retailers and novelty shops sell contacts without requiring a prescription or warning of the risks involved. Non-prescription contacts can cause serious injuries to the eye such as corneal abrasions and in some cases, lead to permanent vision loss.

According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, products like circle lenses are not FDA-approved. Circle lenses can be particularly harmful, because the lens covers more of the eye than regular corrective lenses, which makes it very difficult for necessary oxygen to get through to the eye.

It's crucial that your lenses fit properly, and your individual prescription can only be determined by an eye exam. Skipping this step and buying lenses online or over the counter can set you up for infections and serious eye problems.

Even if you have perfect vision, you must always have an eye examination and obtain a prescription prior to wearing contact lenses. If you have been to an eye doctor and received a prescription, be sure to only buy costume contacts from retailers who require a prescription to purchase the lenses and who only sell FDA- approved contact lenses.

Remember that contact lenses are medical devices, so if you want your Halloween look to include cat, zombie, or glow-in-the-dark eyes, remember to get your costume lenses prescribed by an eye care professional.

To schedule your eye exam or to order FDA-approved, prescription lenses, contact Chippewa Valley Eye Clinic at 715.834.8471.

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Chippewa Valley Eye Clinic is committed to providing the safest and most advanced eye care, serving the people in Western Wisconsin for the past 35 years. With its dedicated team of seven ophthalmologists and three optometrists, Chippewa Valley Eye Clinic delivers personalized patient care, surgical expertise, and outstanding results.