



ARCS: 292-30  
File: HTH-2012-00204

October 11, 2012

Sent via email:

Dear

**Re: Request for Access to Records**  
***Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA)***

I am writing further to your request received by the Ministry of Health. Your request is for:

- **The value (cost) of the monofocal soft foldable lens which the Ministry now covers, as described in its official News Release dated June 4, 2012; the most recent documentation which supports that valuation.**

In response to your question regarding the cost of monofocal soft lenses, the average cost that health authorities pay for the foldable monofocal lenses is \$200 and there is no charge to patients for this type of lens. Patients may also choose to purchase uninsured specialty lenses and health authorities use the \$200 cost of the foldable monofocal lens as the base value to calculate the patient charges, given that patients pay the incremental difference in cost when choosing a specialty lens.

While the ministry determined that the foldable monofocal lens would become the new provincial standard of care, the ministry does not actually purchase the insured lenses. Health authorities are responsible for purchasing all medical devices and supplies that are used in their facilities, and for intraocular lenses, all purchasing and negotiations with vendors is handled by Health Shared Services BC (HSSBC).

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If you require detailed information on the specific costs for the various lenses, please contact HSSBC directly at:

Health Shared Services BC  
Suite 700 - 1380 Burrard Street  
Vancouver BC V6Z 2H3  
Tel: 604 875-7381  
Email: [contact@hssbc.ca](mailto:contact@hssbc.ca)

Your file is now closed.

Please note that this response will be published on the BC Government's Open Information website a minimum of 72 hours after it is released electronically or a minimum of five business days after it has been released by mail in hardcopy. To find out more about Open Information, please access the Open Information website at: <http://www.openinfo.gov.bc.ca/ibc/index.page>

If you have any questions regarding your request, please contact Hema Paupiah, the analyst assigned to your request, at 250 387-1805. This number can be reached toll-free by calling 604 660-7867 from Vancouver or 1 800 663-7867 from elsewhere in BC, and asking to be transferred to 250 387-1805.

You have the right to ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. I have enclosed information on the review and complaint process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maxine Vanzetta".

Maxine Vanzetta, Manager  
Health / Education Team  
Information Access Operations

Cc: Tim Mots – Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

Enclosure

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>How to Request a Review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner</b></p>
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If you have any questions regarding your request please contact the analyst assigned to your file. The analyst's name and telephone number are listed in the attached letter.

Pursuant to section 52 of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA), you may ask the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review any decision, act, or failure to act with regard to your request under FOIPPA.

**Please note that you have 30 business days to file your review with the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. In order to request a review please write to:**

Information and Privacy Commissioner  
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt  
4th Floor, 947 Fort Street  
Victoria BC V8W 9A4  
Telephone: 250 387-5629      Fax: 250 387-1696

If you request a review, please provide the Commissioner's Office with:

1. A copy of your original request;
2. A copy of our response; and
3. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.