

RICHIE AEROSPRING BRACING SYSTEM®

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I provide this bracing system to my patient?

Contact Allied OSI Labs and ask for all information regarding the Richie AeroSpring Bracing System®, including pricing and prescription/order forms. Basically, all you have to do is take bilateral impression casts (slipper casts) or a scan and submit them with the prescription form to Allied OSI Labs.

What if I do not want to order the foot orthotics and just want the OTC carbon fiber brace?

The Richie AeroSpring is a SYSTEM which incorporates or marries the foot orthoses to the carbon fiber brace. To be effective, the system must contain a custom foot orthosis with the features designed to address the specific pathology of the patient. The material composition of the custom foot orthosis is designed to offset the hardness and rigidity of the carbon fiber footplate of the AFO. Therefore, the specialized custom foot orthotic component of the Richie AeroSpring Bracing System® cannot be excluded or replaced.

Why is the Richie AeroSpring custom orthotic a better option?

- The orthotic is “bottom filled” with the flat surface to rest evenly on the heel wedges.
- The orthotic is made of dense crepe foam and is more forgiving (flexible) than a poly shell. With a rigid carbon graphite brace, we believe a flexible orthotic will be effective and more comfortable.
- We incorporate the Richie ArchLock which has great functional value for the patient.

What is The Richie ArchLock™ Technology?

The Richie ArchLock™ is essentially a wedge placed on top of the custom orthosis. It is composed of a firm, non-compressible foam material and is thinned or skived around all borders to avoid pressure irritation. This wedge is strategically placed under the lateral forefoot. The high point of the wedge is at midshaft of the 5th metatarsal and the low point is at the lateral border of the 1st metatarsal.

This patented technology is designed to improve stability of the foot and optimize locking of the calcaneocuboid joint via two mechanisms. Multiple researchers have proposed and validated the optimization of foot stability and foot function when the forefoot is pronated on the rearfoot. The scientific background of the function of the Richie ArchLock™ is based upon published research from noted anatomists and biomechanists. Visit our website at www.alliedosilabs.com to view the scientific validation.

What if I do not want to order the heel wedges?

The heel wedges are recommended for certain pathologies but they are not required. The practitioner can indicate “no heel wedges” on the prescription form. Keep in the mind that certain pathologies will respond best to the system recommendations for certain heel wedge heights. Practitioners are advised to follow these guidelines which are based upon sound research and product testing.

When and how do I change the height of the heel wedges?

Please see our web page which describes the function and protocol for using the heel wedges.

What is the weight limit of the Richie AeroSpring Bracing System®?

The maximum weight recommended is 250 lbs. Larger patients do not qualify for the Richie AeroSpring.

Can I send a scan of my patient’s feet instead of impression casts?

Yes, the Richie AeroSpring is available to order from the Allied OSI iPad app.

If the brace or the orthotic needs adjustment, what is the process?

Please contact Allied OSI Labs for further instructions.

What type of shoe is required for this bracing system?

A lace-up oxford style shoe or athletic shoe with a removable insole and a deep heel counter is recommended to accommodate the carbon fiber footplate of the brace, as well as the foot orthosis. The heel wedges will fit and work properly in most athletic shoes. Send a tracing of the removable insole or the shoe with the order (\$10 charge to fit to shoe). If a tracing or shoe is not sent with the order, the doctor should be prepared to make grinding adjustments if necessary. Contact Allied OSI Labs for instructions.

Can the foot orthotics be used after the brace is discontinued?

Yes, many of the conditions treated with the Richie AeroSpring Bracing System® do not require lifetime use of the carbon fiber AFO. Once the condition has healed, the foot orthoses can be worn separately from the brace itself.

My patient has insurance benefits which cover the AFO brace (code L1932) but does not cover the custom foot orthotics (L3000). What should I charge for the orthotics?

You should charge the same fee which you normally charge your patients who must pay cash for foot orthotics. Keep in mind that the average reimbursement for the L1932 brace is \$800 and your profit from this component alone is between \$220 and \$280. Any charge for the foot orthotics will add directly to the profit from the system.

I am nervous about buying a system which has a price of \$580. How can I be certain that I will not lose money?

The carbon fiber AFO (L1932) brace is PDAC-approved, so there is no reason for Medicare to deny the reimbursement if the patient meets medical necessity requirements. For other third-party payors, it is highly recommended that your office gain preauthorization for all codes relevant to the brace system.

Can you bill Medicare for L3000 orthotics (left and right)? Will Medicare only pay for orthotics if it is attached to an AFO?

Medicare will not pay for foot orthotics, even with the Richie AeroSpring System. The doctor must have the patient sign an ABN (Advance Beneficiary Notice) and then charge cash for the foot orthotics. The L3000 can be billed for private insurance.

Is preauthorization with Medicare necessary?

Medicare authorization is not needed since we have a PDAC letter. The supplemental insurance might require preauthorization, though it pays the co-pay most of the time if Medicare approves.

Can the brace/orthotics be returned or exchanged?

This is a custom system for your patients. Therefore, Allied OSI Labs cannot issue credits or exchanges due to patient non-compliance or non-acceptance.