

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:  
Richie AeroSpring Brace Systems

**1. How can I provide this brace system for my patient?**

Contact any authorized Richie Brace Distributor and ask for all information regarding the Richie AeroSpring Brace Systems including pricing and prescription/order forms. Basically, all you have to do is take a scan of your patient's feet or take bilateral impression casts (slipper casts) and submit them with the prescription form to your lab distributor.

**2. What if I do not want to order the foot orthotics and just want the 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 Brace System cannot be excluded or replaced.

**3. 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 and practitioners are advised to follow these guidelines which are based upon sound research and product testing.

**4. Can I send a scan of my patient's feet instead of impression casts?**

Yes, we will accept a scan such as TomCat or I-Pad scans.

**5. 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.

**6. What type of shoe is required for this brace system?**

A lace up oxford style shoe or athletic shoe with a removable insole is recommended to accommodate the carbon fiber footplate of the brace as well as the foot orthosis. The 20 mm heel wedges will fit and work properly in most athletic shoes.

**7. Can the foot orthotics be used after the brace is discontinued?**

Yes, many of the conditions treated with the Richie AeroSpring Brace Systems 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.

**8. 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.

**9. I am nervous about buying a system which has a price tag of \$580. How can I be certain that I will not loose any money here?**

The carbon fiber AFO (L1932) brace is PDAC approved, so there is no reason for Medicare to not approve the reimbursement if the patient meets medical necessity requirements. For other third party payors, it is highly recommended that your office gain pre-authorization for all codes relevant to the brace system.