

Nolaro24™ : Bridging the Gap Between Custom and Non-Custom Orthotics

By Louis DeCaro, DPM

Nolaro24™, LLC, founded by Roberta Nole and myself, have proudly supplied the QuadraStep Orthotic System and littleSTEPS line of pediatric foot orthoses and gait plates to the podiatry profession over the last 5 years. These devices provide today's podiatrist with an entire line of pre-fabricated functional foot orthoses to treat children and adults with an alternative to custom.

In today's practice, the "ideal" method of treating patients via custom orthoses is often time and cost-prohibitive due to declining reimbursements. In contrast, off-the-shelf "arch supports", although less expensive, usually lack adequate biomechanical support. The QuadraStep Orthotic System™ bridges the gap between custom and non-custom orthoses.

The QuadraStep Orthotic System™ is based on Nole's 10+ years of research, refinement and practical application of a foot typing model. It details a specific methodology implementing a clinical algorithm that categorizes a patient's foot into one of 24 types. Trained podiatrists are able to classify a patient's foot type and dispense prescription-based orthoses within minutes.

The QuadraStep Orthotic System™ simplifies the 24 foot-type medical model into 6 subclassifications known as "Quads", groups of four relatively similar foot types. The 6 Quads are lettered A through F, and are color coded for further clarification.

Unlike other off-the-shelf orthotic systems that offer only a "One-Shape-Fits-All" arch support, the QuadraStep Orthotic System™ offers 6 Quad specific functional orthoses, each biomechanically tailored to that of a true custom prescription.

The QuadraStep Orthotic System™ offers several distinct advantages to podiatrists. First, it is easy to learn and can be quickly applied in a clinical setting. Second, it eliminates the need for costly and messy foot impressions that often are prone to error. Third,

there is no wait. The orthoses can be stocked in-house and ready for immediate delivery. Fourth, and most importantly, the product offers truly custom results at only a fraction of the cost of traditional custom orthoses.

The original QuadraStep System was produced with 6 adult size ranges in one full width that provided complete biomechanical control. *While very successful, we recognized that many practitioners wanted a lower volume device with similar biomechanical properties. As a result, we now offer a NARROW version of the QuadraStep Orthoses. The NARROW versions offer the same exact posting prescription and materials as the original width, but with an overall decrease in width by a quarter inch, including a slightly less deep heel cup.*

This narrow version is designed to fit in more casual style shoes such as loafers, and also fits a narrower foot better. The NARROW version is a popular choice for patients in ordering "2nd pairs" for their more casual shoes. Their original pair provides complete mechanical control in their full fitting and athletic shoes and the 2nd NARROW pair gives them flexibility to wear "nicer" shoes with similar biomechanical control.

Today's decline in economic conditions and rising co-pays makes it difficult for some patients to include a foot orthoses

program into a family budget. This results in an increased demand on today's podiatric physician to find ways to provide quality health care. The QuadraStep Orthotic System™ enhances podiatric practice management by simultaneously addressing budgetary concerns and the need for immediate orthotic intervention. In addition, it offers the podiatrist an opportunity to expand their orthotic practice in a timely and efficient manner.

For more information contact Nolaro24 at info@thequadrastepsystem.com, visit www.thequadrastepsystem.com or call 877 792-4669, or circle #155 on the reader service card.