

Who Is Surestep?

By Lem Bach

Surestep manufacturers orthoses that improve quality of life for children and adults. Everything we do is focused on making big, short- and long-term improvements in patients' lives.

When our founder, Bernie Veldman (CO), needed braces for his son, he realized the only options were harsh, painful, and rigid. That's why Bernie designed his own kid-friendly, dynamic solution that was both comfortable and effective. That simple idea evolved from helping just one child to helping thousands—and now adults too.

Today, Surestep offers custom products fabricated by measurements and covered by L Codes. To meet each patient's specific needs, we offer a wide range of products:

- AFOs
- HEKO knee braces
- TLSOs
- Derotation Straps
- The Stabilizer
- Gauntlets
- And many others

But we're best known for the Surestep SMO, which revolutionized orthotics management for children with hypotonia.

What Is The Surestep SMO?

The Surestep SMO is a patent-ed device that utilizes an extremely thin and malleable plastic, unique trim lines, and compression to treat flexible flatfoot. It provides dynamic stability by allowing normal pronation and supination, not aiming to hold the foot and ankle in a rigid subtalar neutral position.

Our SMO also improves lower extremity alignment up the chain, facilitating children's gross motor skill and gait development. Rather than pushing up on the arch, it works through circumferential compression to correct the excessive pronated position in all three planes of motion. As it controls excessive calcaneal valgus, a child's arch lifts into a more optimal position.

The trim lines do not extend beyond the toes: the medial trim line ends just proximal to the 1st metatarsal head, while the lateral trim line ends just distal to the 5th metatarsal head. This helps control forefoot abduction while allowing full function of the toes and enabling the wind-



lass mechanism to develop. It means the child can run, jump, and play like his or her peers, while maintaining 3rd rocker during gait.

Not Just For Kids

Although we'll always be a pediatric manufacturer at heart, Surestep is expanding our solutions to adults.

The first step in that direction is the Stabilizer. It facilitates triplanar stability through compression and use of a carbon fiber strut. It also allows clearance during swing phase for patients with drop foot. A molded inner boot provides consistent proprioceptive input through distribution of forces and circumferential compression.

The Stabilizer features a:

- Low profile cuff
- Thin, carbon reinforcement for increased energy return
- Molded inner boot to prevent skin breakdown
- Shortened footplate for ease of donning

This innovative device is more than preventative. It restores confidence by providing support and stability. With a decreased risk of falling, your patients will be able to re-engage in day-to-day activities.

Stabilizer L-Codes Are Approved

PDAC recently finished their review of the Stabilizer—with laces or Velcro—and approved all four HCPCS codes we proposed:

- L1940: Ankle foot orthosis, plastic or other material, custom-fabricated
- L2280: Addition to lower extremity, molded inner boot
- L2820: Addition to lower extremity orthosis, soft interface for molded plastic, below knee section
- L2330: Addition to lower extremity, lacer molded to patient model, for custom fabricated orthosis

This review by a governing body verifies that these codes match this product well, giving you confidence that compatible insurance can pay for the Stabilizer—as long as you show through your notes that it is medically necessary and justified by your patient's condition.

How Can I Learn More?

To learn more about the exciting, innovative solutions Surestep can provide your patients, visit www.surestep.net or click here for our product catalogue, fitting guides, case studies, and much more, or call 877-462-0711.