

## Fighting the Diabetic Foot Crisis, One Step at a Time

*DARCO International's comprehensive wound care line helps clinicians protect patients and preserve mobility worldwide through targeted offloading, comfort and healing.*

By Molly Glover

For more than 40 years, DARCO International has been a trusted leader in the foot and ankle industry, delivering innovative solutions that help clinicians improve outcomes and restore patient mobility globally.

Diabetes is one of the fastest-growing health challenges worldwide, and its complications on the foot remain among the most serious. The average wound episode costs approximately \$24,000, while the health system spends an average of \$58,000 per patient with a DFU. Even more concerning, the five-year mortality rate is 46% following minor amputations and 56% following major amputations.

These statistics highlight the need for effective, accessible, and compliant offloading solutions—the very area where DARCO has invested decades of research and development.

### A Complete Line of Off-the-Shelf Solutions

DARCO offers one of the most comprehensive lines of off-the-shelf diabetic foot and wound care solutions available today. From pre-ulcerative protection to advanced offloading and post-amputation recovery, DARCO's products are designed to be practical for clinicians and comfortable for patients. Newly released products in this line include:

- **POGO® Athletic Offloading Sneaker:** POGO® was engineered to merge clinical offloading effectiveness with a modern, lifestyle-friendly design. At its core is DARCO's AirCore™ Insole, three times thicker than standard insoles, featuring a removable peg system for tailored offloading zones.

*"When designing the POGO, we focused our engineering efforts on optimizing the insole construction. In traditional shoes, the insole is typically 3 to 4 mm thick; in the POGO®, we feature a 13 mm insole,"* said Riley Csernica, VP of Product Development for DARCO International. *"This depth allows clinicians to perform off-the-shelf offloading by selectively removing sections of the insole. Pegs can be taken out directly beneath an ulcer or hot spot to create a targeted offloading zone, maximizing pressure reduction exactly where it's needed most."*

The shoe's athletic appearance has also proven essen-



tial in patient compliance. As Dr. Rahn Ravenell, DPM with MUSC Health, notes: *"I believe patient compliance has improved with wearing the POGOs. These are attractive shoes. Because they're not an orthopedic-appearing shoe, it has been found that patients are more likely to wear it. I have had patients who have worn the shoes when they've already had a wound to close to prevent re-ulceration."*

- **DUOPro™ Wound Care Shoe:** The DUOPro™ Wound Care Shoe simplifies DFU management with an all-in-one kit

that includes a dual-hardness shoe, removable peg insole for customizable offloading, and a wound marker. By combining these features into one streamlined solution, clinicians can ensure effective offloading while reducing ordering complexity.

*"I've had much quicker improvement in offloading wounds and getting wounds to close [using the DUOPro],"* said Dr. Kevin Brown, DPM with Scott Orthopedic. *"I've also started using it for six to eight weeks after bunionectomies and offloading procedures for surgical patients as well. I would say that with most folks, when they're compliant using the DUO-Pro™ shoe, I've seen 25 to 30% reduction in wound size within two to three weeks in some patients, which is pretty amazing."*

### Soon-to-Be-Released Products

Launching later this year are DARCO's **Body Armor® PFA Walker** (a device that provides adaptable stabilization and pressure distribution following partial foot amputation) and the **Body Armor® Heel Reliever** (a device engineered for patients on bedrest, redistributing pressure from the heel to the calf to prevent pressure ulcers).

The rising prevalence of diabetes demands innovation that is both practical and patient-centered. With products like DUOPro™ and POGO®, and the upcoming Body Armor® PFA Walker and Heel Reliever, DARCO International is equipping clinicians worldwide with off-the-shelf devices that reduce costs, improve healing rates, and enhance patient quality of life. *For more information, please visit [DARCOinternational.com](http://DARCOinternational.com), click here, or contact Direct Sales Manager, Ian Darby ([idarby@darcointernational.com](mailto:idarby@darcointernational.com)).*