

Assessment ARGO Trial Policy

The Assessment Advanced Reciprocating Gait Orthosis (ARGO) is designed to provide an evaluation tool for Orthotists and Physical Therapists. It allows a potential patient to be fitted with a temporary orthosis to confirm that s/he is a good candidate for an ARGO. The brace is not intended to be a definitive orthosis and is not to be used outside the clinical facility. It is for evaluation only! The purpose is to enable the patient to sit, stand, and ambulate with parallel bars to demonstrate the appropriateness of this product before making a commitment to purchase it. It may also be helpful in obtaining the required "letter of medical necessity" from the treating physician.

Once the patient has demonstrated his/her ability with this product and has expressed a commitment to proceed, an ARGO kit can be purchased from Liberty Technology. The definitive ARGO can be fabricated by the local Orthotist if they have attended an ARGO course or can demonstrate significant experience with RGOs. Alternatively, Liberty Technology can arrange for fabrication and assembly. To fabricate an ARGO, the Orthotist takes the necessary casts for AFOs (with the foot and ankle positioned to achieve 90° with the lower leg and any eversion or toe-out eliminated); provides a supine profile tracing of the patient (extending from the axillae to the soles of the feet – medial and lateral sides of the legs); and completes the patient Measurement Chart provided.

Trial Policy:

The Assessment ARGO is provided for up to two weeks to qualified professionals who want to evaluate a potential patient. After the two week trial period, a rental fee of \$100 per week will be charged if the unit has not been returned. There is a \$150 charge for set-up, which will be billed to the facility (plus any rental fees beyond the initial two week period and shipping charges).

Patient Selection:

ARGOs are generally suitable for patients who suffer from paraplegia, multiple sclerosis, spina bifida, muscular atrophy, transverse myelitis and similar neuromuscular or neurological conditions. Candidates for the Assessment ARGO-90 must be between 5 and 6 feet* in height and weigh less than 200 pounds (90 Kg). The Adjustable ARGO-60 is suitable for patients with a height of 4 to 5 feet* weighing less than 132 pounds (60 Kg). The units are suitable for patients with a spinal lesion level of T6* or lower. Patients must have minimal hip, knee, and ankle contractures (less than 5°) and no significant spinal deformities or spasticity. They should be in good physical condition and have reasonable upper-body strength. * Contact Liberty Technology for T3 to T6 patients and those over 6 feet tall

Procedure:

Review the ARGO Fitting & Fabrication videotape provided and the trial policy, ensure that your patient meets the requirements, and then sign the bottom of this form and FAX it to us at (508) 893-9966. If a trial unit is available for the dates specified, we will ship it prior to the due date. If all units are committed for this date, we will contact you to determine a mutually acceptable alternate date.

Fitting:

The Assessment ARGO will come as a kit with all of the components necessary to build the unit. The back tube, upper steels, and lower steels are adjustable to accommodate a wide variety of patients. The necessary tools will be provided, as well as Fabrication/Fitting and Physiotherapy Manuals for the non-adjustable ARGO.

Read the instructions on Trial Fitting (Chapter 12), Finishing (Chapter 13), and Initial Training (Chapter 14) in the Fabrication/Fitting Manual. Assessment ARGO components must not be contoured to adapt to the patient as is done for the definitive orthosis. Knee-lock cable adjustments must be made in accordance with the instructions provided to ensure proper release and lock of the knee joints. Test these with the patient properly supported to prevent injury!

In the Physiotherapy Manual, review the materials starting with Pre-Brace Training (Section 2), Gait Training (Section 3) and Independence Training (Section 4). The patient should be instructed on the procedure and the operation of the orthosis. They must not be allowed to use this temporary orthosis unattended and must not leave the facility/clinic. We recommend that the patient use the brace while supported by parallel bars.

Assessment ARGO Trial Application

name of practitioner and certification

date

address (street, city, state, ZIP)

date needed

date to be returned

patients name(s)

height

weight

(_____) _____
phone number

(_____) _____
FAX number

I have read the trial policy, viewed the video tape and evaluated the patient to assure that he/she is a suitable candidate:

signature

date

FAX to LTI at **1-508-893-9966**