

## Head and Neck Lymphedema: Home Treatment Abbreviated Routine

Perform the exercises below to help you manage your lymphedema.

## Remember: Manual lymphatic drainage (MLD) is a very light circular massage. Stretch the skin but do not press hard.

- 1. Deep breathing: Push stomach out when inhaling, squeeze stomach tight when you exhale. Do this 7 times.
- 2. Collarbones: Start behind (above) the collarbones and pull down & out to armpit. Do this 7 times.
- 3. Back of neck: pull toward ears. Do this 20-30 times
- 4. Side of neck: push back toward ears. Do this 20-30 times
- 5. Front of neck: push back toward ears. Do this 20-30 times
- 6. Side of face: push back toward ears. Do this 20-30 times
- 7. Front of face: push back toward ears. Do this 20-30 times
- 8. Tongue: finger on the tongue. Press down and out. Do this 20-30 times.
- 9. Cheek: finger inside cheek, hand supporting outside. Push back. Do this 20-30 times

Do these exercises in order then reverse the sequence: 9,8,7,6,5,4,3,2,1

Disclaimer: This document contains information and/or instructional materials developed by Michigan Medicine for the typical patient with your condition. It may include links to online content that was not created by Michigan Medicine and for which Michigan Medicine does not assume responsibility. It does not replace medical advice from your health care provider because your experience may differ from that of the typical patient. Talk to your health care provider if you have any questions about this document, your condition or your treatment plan.

Author: Brad Smith, MS, CCC-SLP, CLT Adapted from MD Anderson Cancer Center 2009 Reviewers: Amber Richardson, OTR/L, CLT

Patient Education by <u>Michigan Medicine</u> is licensed under a <u>Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International Public License</u>. Last Revised 05/2020