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# **Shoulder & Rotator Cuff Conditioning Program**

<u>Purpose</u>: To strengthen and stretch your muscles surrounding the shoulder to regain normal motion and pain-free function.

<u>Length</u>: 4-6 weeks unless otherwise instructed.

#### 1. Pendulum:

- ✓ Lean forward and place one hand on a counter or table for support. Let your other arm hang freely at your side.
- ✓ Gently swing your arm forward and back. Repeat the exercise moving your arm side-to-side, and repeat again in a circular motion 10 circles in each direction 3 times each.
- ✓ Repeat the entire sequence with the other arm.\*Tip: Do not round your back or lock your knees.

#### Pendulum Exercises







Swinging Side-to-Side Swinging

# 2. Crossover Arm Stretch:

- ✓ Relax your shoulders and gently pull one arm across your chest as far as possible, holding at your upper arm.
- ✓ Hold the stretch for 30 seconds and then relax for 30 seconds.
- ✓ Repeat exercise 3 times. Repeat with other arm.\*Tip: Do not pull or put pressure on your elbow.

# Crossover Arm Stretch

## 3. Passive Internal Rotation:

- ✓ Hold a stick behind your back with one hand, and lightly grasp the other end of the stick with your other hand.
- ✓ Pull the stick horizontally as shown so that your shoulder is passively stretched to the point of feeling a pull without pain.
- ✓ Hold for 30 seconds and then relax for 30 seconds.
- ✓ Repeat exercise 3 times. Repeat on other side.
  \*Tip: Do not lean over or twist to side while pulling the stick.
  Any stick will work, ex. mop or broom handle.



#### 4. Passive External Rotation:

- ✓ Grasp the stick with one hand and cup the other end of the stick with the other hand.
- ✓ Keep the elbow of the shoulder you are stretching against the side of your body and push the stick horizontally as shown to the point of feeling a pull without pain.
- ✓ Hold for 30 seconds and then relax for 30 seconds.
- ✓ Repeat exercise 3 times. Repeat on other side.\*Tip: Keep your hips facing forward and do not twist.



#### 5. Standing Row:

- ✓ Make a 3-foot-long loop with the elastic band and tie the ends together. Attach the loop to a doorknob or other stable object.
- ✓ Stand holding the band with your elbow bent and at your side, as shown in the start position.
- ✓ Keep your arm close to your side and slowly pull your elbow straight back.
- ✓ Slowly return to the start position and repeat 3 times.

  \*Tip: Squeeze your shoulder blades together as you pull.

  Band can be purchased at drugstore, ex. Theraband.



### 6. <u>Upward External Rotation</u>:

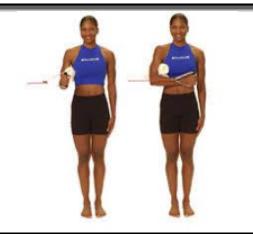
- ✓ Make a 3-foot-long loop with the elastic band and tie the ends together. Attach the loop to the doorknob or other stable object.
- ✓ Stand holding the band with your elbow bent 90° and raised to shoulder-height, as shown in the start position.
- ✓ Keeping your shoulder and elbow level, slowly raise your hand until it is in line with your head.
- ✓ Slowly return to the start position and repeat 3 times.

  \*Tip: Make sure your elbow stays in line with your shoulder.



# 7. Internal Rotation:

- ✓ Make a 3-foot-loop with the elastic band and tie the ends together. Attach the loop to a doorknob or other stable object.
- ✓ Stand holding the band with your elbow best and at your side, as shown in the start position.
- ✓ Keep your elbow close to your side and bring your arm across your body.
- ✓ Slowly return to the start position and repeat 3 times. \*Tip: Keep your elbow pressed into your side.



#### 8. External Rotation:

- ✓ Make a 3-foot-long loop with the elastic and tie the ends together.
- ✓ Attach the loop to a doorknob or other stable object.
- ✓ Stand holding the band with your elbow bent and at your side, as shown in the start position.
- ✓ Keeping your elbow close to your side, slowly rotate your arm outward.
- ✓ Slowly return to the start position and repeat 3 times.
  \*Tip: Squeeze your shoulder blades together when you pull your elbow back.

