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ASSOCIATION

Conference 2016



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Right Choice Right Reason

Occupational Hygiene in NL

Kelly Taylor
Industrial Hygienist
WorkplaceNL



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WorkplaceNL

Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Commission

WorkplaceNL



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Objectives

- History of occupational hygiene in NL
- Where we are today
- Emerging issues in NL
 - Noise and implications for youth
 - Combined exposures
 - Work related stress and links to other chronic diseases such as cardiovascular disease



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Note on Ergonomics...



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Occupational Diseases (ILO Definitions)

Occupational diseases - Have a specific or a strong relation to an occupation generally with only one causal agent and recognized as such

Work-related diseases - With multiple causal agents, where factors in the work environment may play a role, together with other risk factors, in the development of such diseases, which have a complex etiology

Diseases affecting workplace populations - Without causal relationship with work but which may be aggravated by occupational hazards to health



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Challenges

- Data challenges – inconsistent tracking, lack of exposure data, under-reporting
- Long latency periods
- The diseases reported today reflect past workplace exposures
- Challenges in linking an illness to an exposure
- Physicians



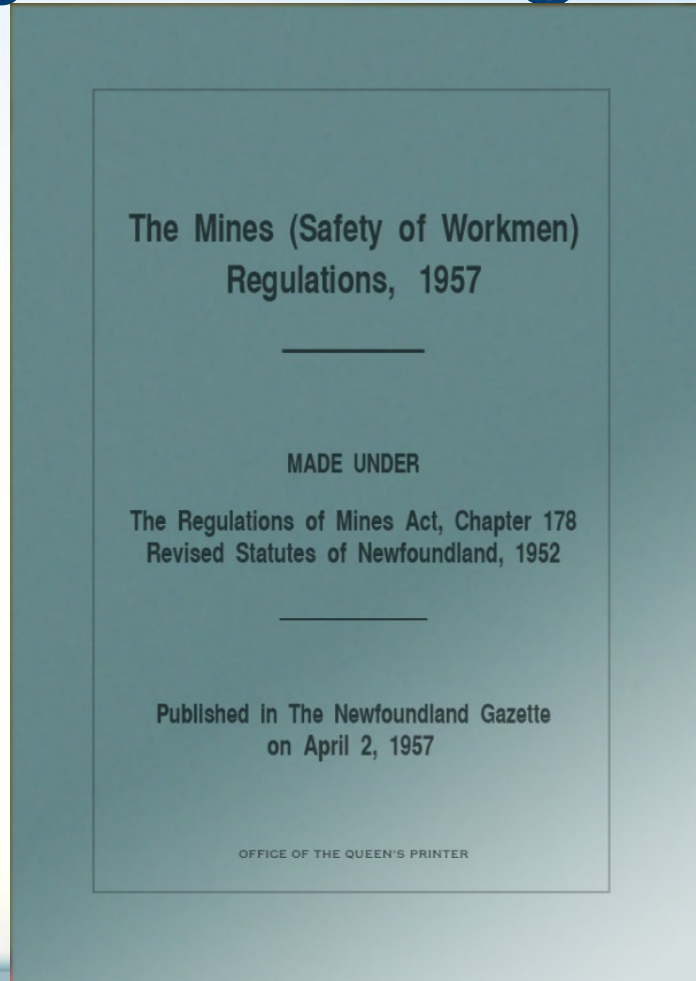
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History of Mining in NL



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History of Mining in NL

- **Bell Island iron ore mine (1894-1966)**
- **Rich history of natural resources**
- **Risks associated with OH&S hazards in mines**



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Health Hazards in Mining

- **Safety hazards**
- **Chemical** – gases, solvents, dusts,
- **Physical** – noise, vibration, radiation
- **Ergonomic** – awkward postures, repetition, force, duration
- **Biological** – viruses, inadequate hygiene



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Current Day Occupational Diseases

- Occupational lung diseases
- Occupational cancers
- Skin diseases and dermatitis
- Noise induced hearing loss
- Chemical exposures



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Statistics



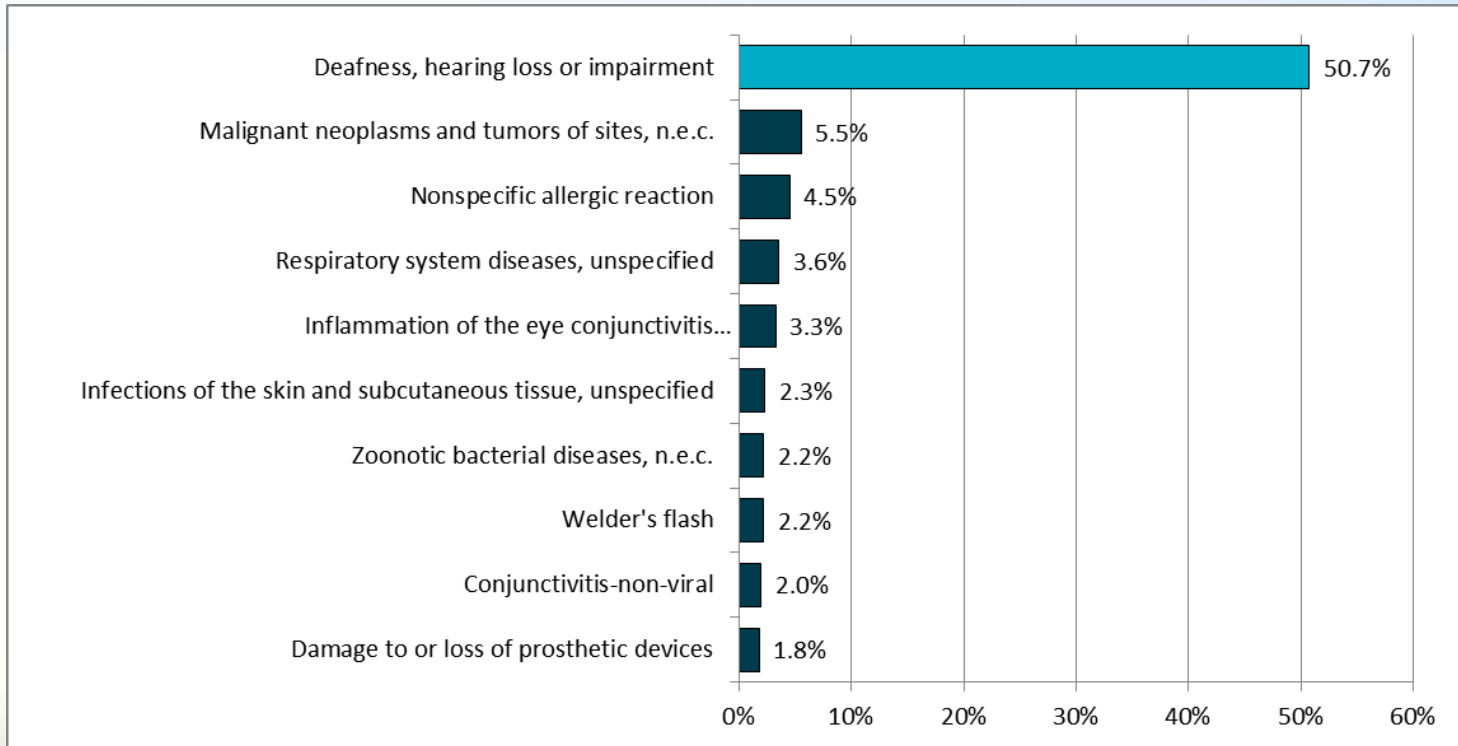
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Top 10 most common accepted occupational disease claims 2009-2015 (combined)



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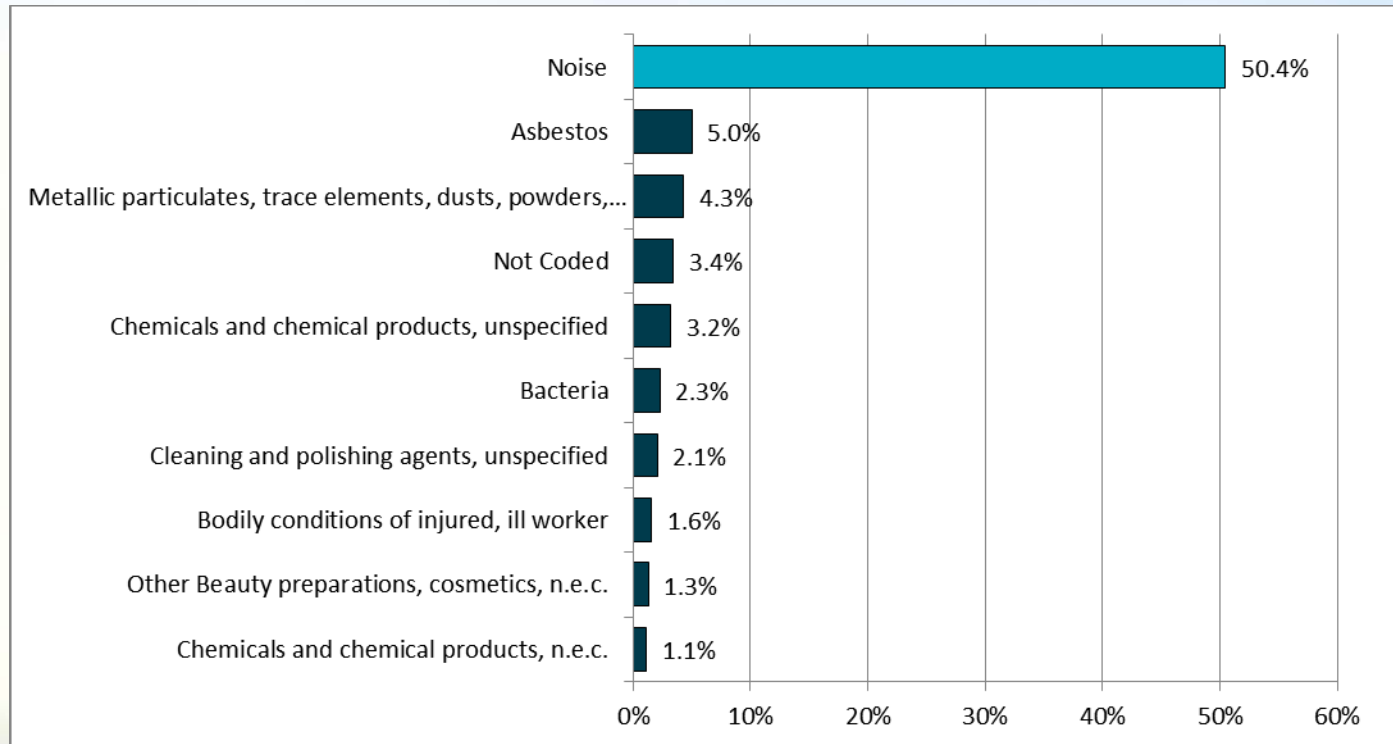


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Top 10 most common source of disease for accepted occupational disease claims 2009-2015 (combined)



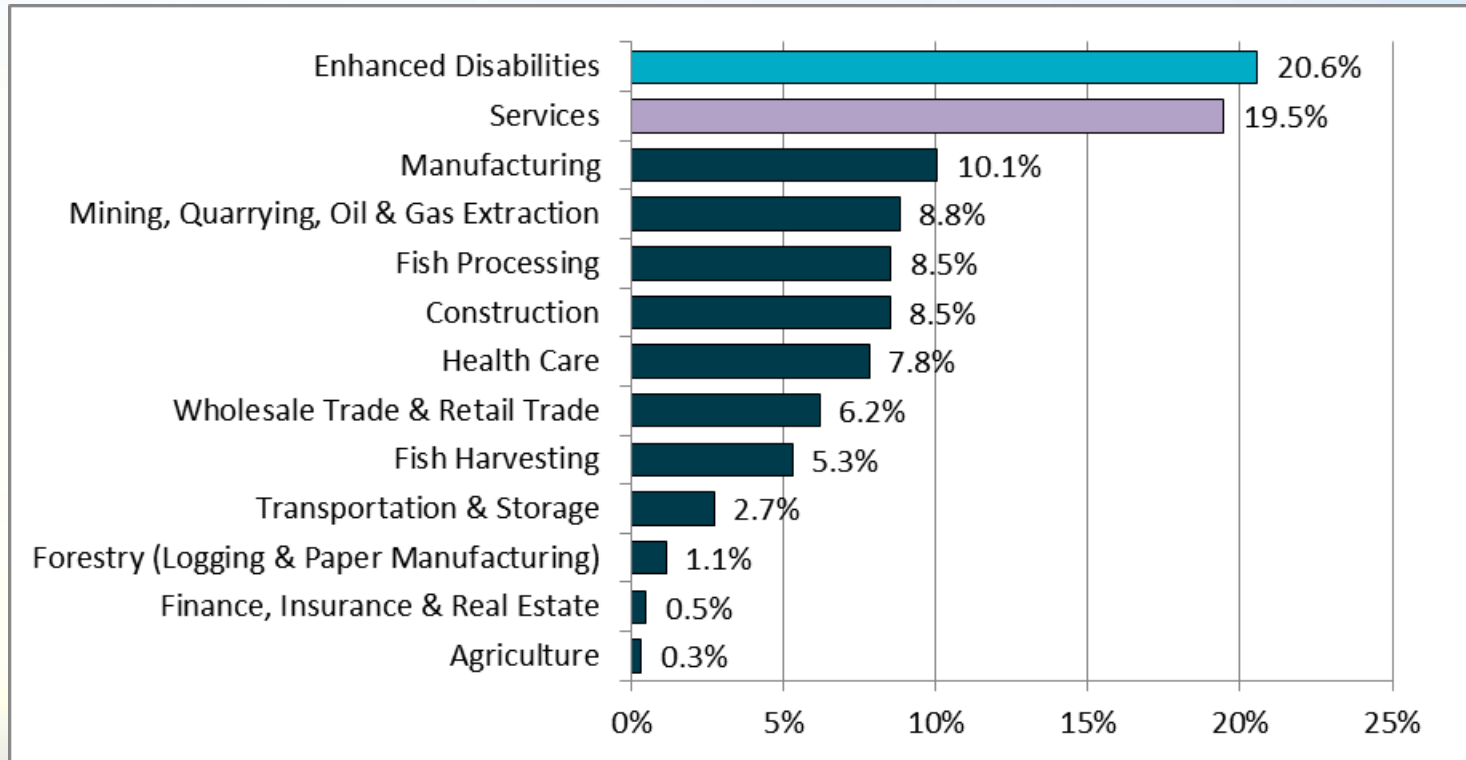
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Proportion of occupational disease claims by industry class, 2009-2015 (combined)



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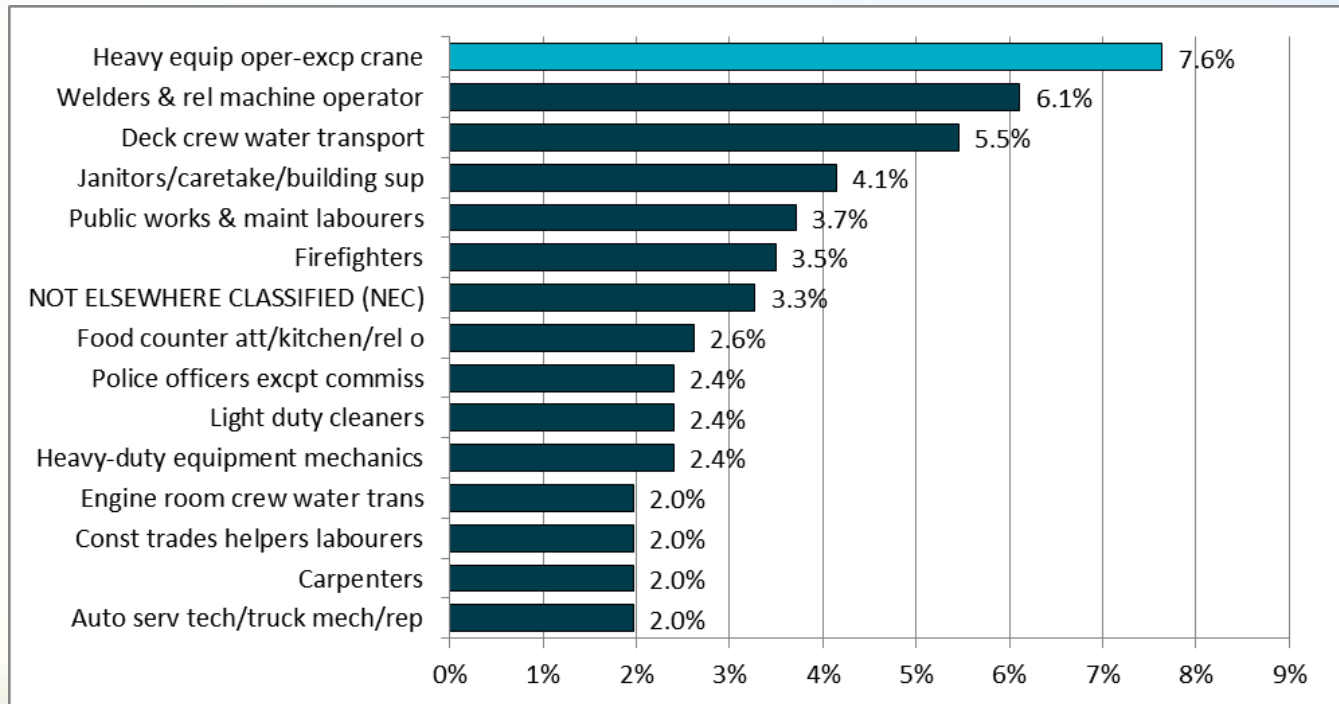


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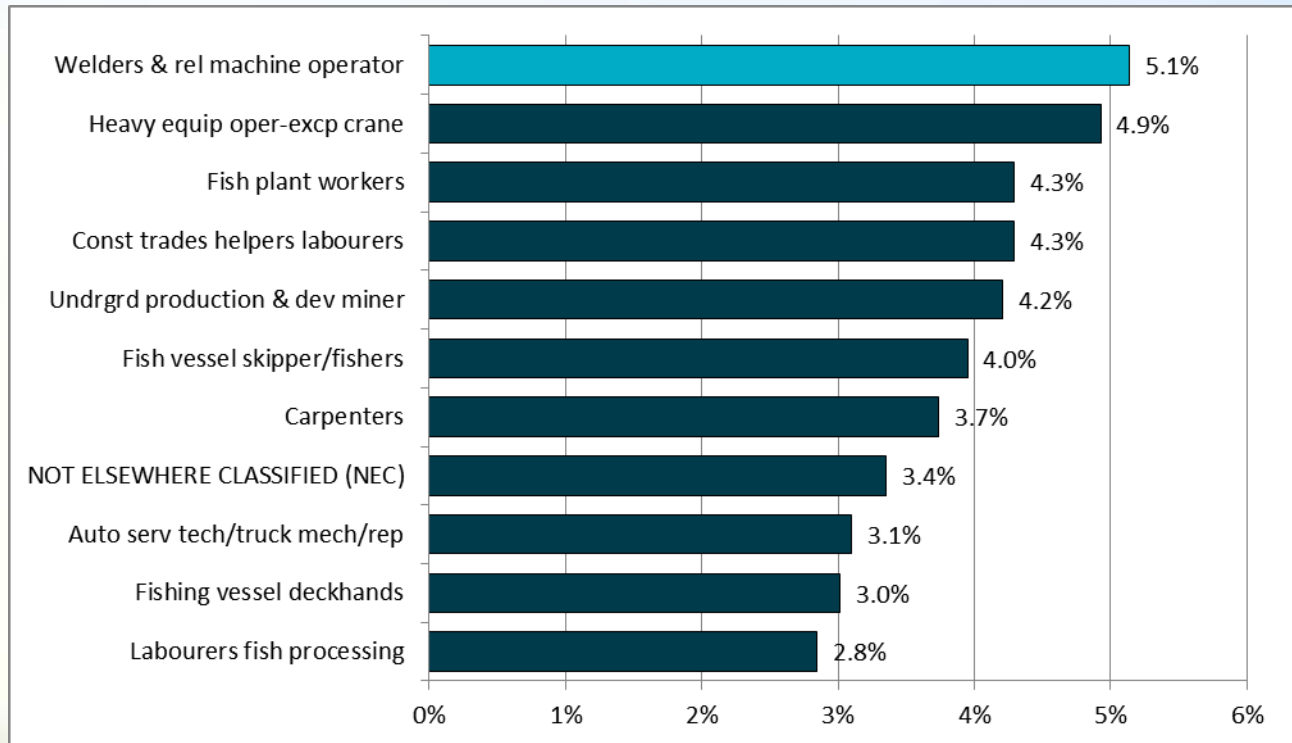
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Proportion of occupational disease claims by occupation for Services industry class 2009-2015 (combined)



Top 10 most common occupations for accepted occupational disease claims 2009-2015 (combined)



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Emerging Issues

- Noise
- Data challenges
- Combined exposures
- Work-related stress



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Noise

- Continues to be an area of concern
- Potential impact of personal listening devices
- Noise controls – move beyond personal protective equipment



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Data Challenges

- Lack of data
- Lack of data in sex-differentiated analysis
- Differences in occupational exposures based on gender



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Combined Exposures

- Occupational cancers (e.g shift work)
- Multiple chemicals in use
- Chemical and biological agents



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Work-Related Stress

- Unhealthy behaviours
- Chronic disease development
- Cardiovascular disease



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Ways Forward...

- Increasing education and awareness of all parties
- Improving data collection
- Early and comprehensive identification of workplace hazards
- Regular evaluation of existing controls



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Thank you!

Remember “Health”
in
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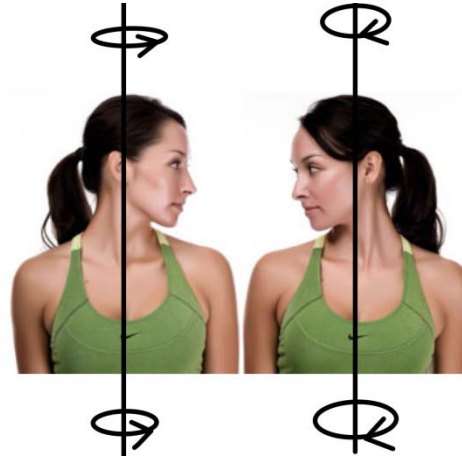
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Neck Stretches



- Lower chin to chest keeping shoulders straight
- Hold 15-20 sec



- Rotate head to one side keeping shoulders straight
- Hold 15-20 sec
- Rotate other side



- Tilt head to bring ear to one shoulder (do not raise shoulder)
- Hold 15-20 sec
- Repeat other side