

MARK PERREN-JONES SPA TRAINING ACADEMY

Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD)

Professional Course Workbook



COURSE FOCUS

Anatomy • Safety & contraindications • Treatment sequence • Facial MLD • Post-surgical considerations • Aromatherapy • Edema & lymphedema • Self-care

Created by Mark Perren-Jones

For educational use within the Mark Perren-Jones Spa Training Academy.

WORKBOOK OVERVIEW

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HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

Use the workbook alongside the course videos. The written sequence reinforces key principles, while the demonstrations show hand placement, direction, rhythm, and pressure. Where a client has a medical condition, recent surgery, unexplained swelling, or suspected lymphedema, work within your scope and obtain appropriate medical guidance.

SECTION 01

Introduction to Manual Lymphatic Drainage

Welcome to Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD), a gentle, rhythmic technique designed to support the movement of lymphatic fluid and promote relaxation. MLD uses light, precise skin-stretching movements and is commonly used within lymphedema care and other appropriately selected clinical or wellness settings.

What Does Manual Lymphatic Drainage Do?

1. Supports Lymphatic Fluid Movement:

- The lymphatic system helps return excess interstitial fluid to the circulation and plays an important role in immune function.
- MLD uses gentle manual techniques intended to encourage fluid movement through available lymphatic pathways.

2. Reduces Swelling (Edema):

- **When clinically appropriate, MLD may be used to encourage superficial fluid movement and help address selected swelling.**

3. Supports Normal Lymphatic Function:

- **The lymphatic system contributes to immune surveillance; MLD should not be presented as an immune-boosting treatment.**

4. May Support Comfort During Recovery:

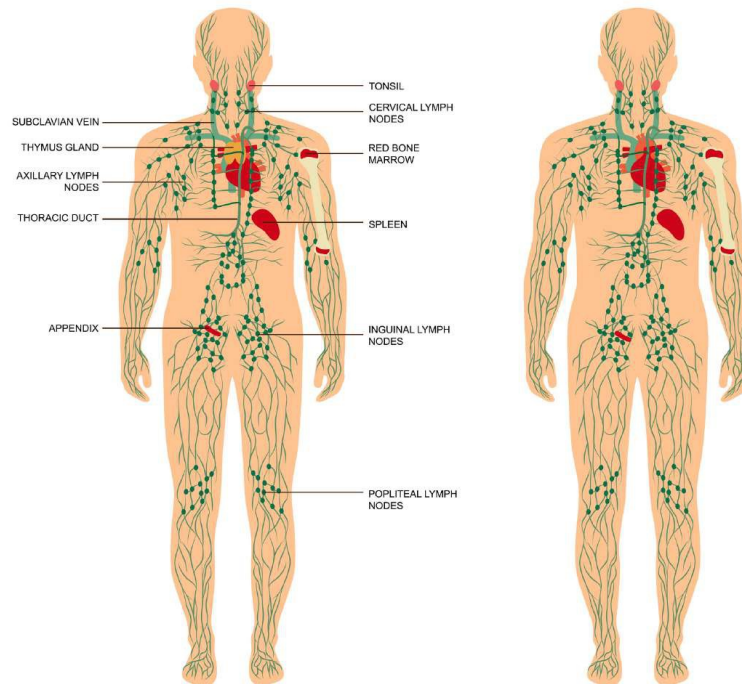
- In selected cases and with appropriate medical clearance, MLD may be used as an adjunct during recovery to address swelling or discomfort. Evidence varies by procedure and condition.

5. Encourages Relaxation:

- With its gentle, rhythmic strokes, MLD is as calming as a lullaby for your nervous system.

The Anatomy of the Lymphatic System

LYMPHATIC SYSTEM



Let's take a tour of the unsung hero of your body: the lymphatic system! It's not as famous as the cardiovascular system, but it's just as important.

Key Players in the Lymphatic System

1. Lymph:

- A clear, watery fluid that carries waste products, toxins, and immune cells.
- Fun fact: You have about 3 liters of lymph in your body right now!

2. Lymph Vessels:

- A network of thin tubes that carry lymph throughout the body, like highways for your cleanup crew.
- These vessels have valves, ensuring lymph flows in the right direction.

3. Lymph Nodes:

- Small, bean-shaped "checkpoints" where lymph is filtered.
- Packed with immune cells (like lymphocytes), these nodes trap and destroy harmful substances.

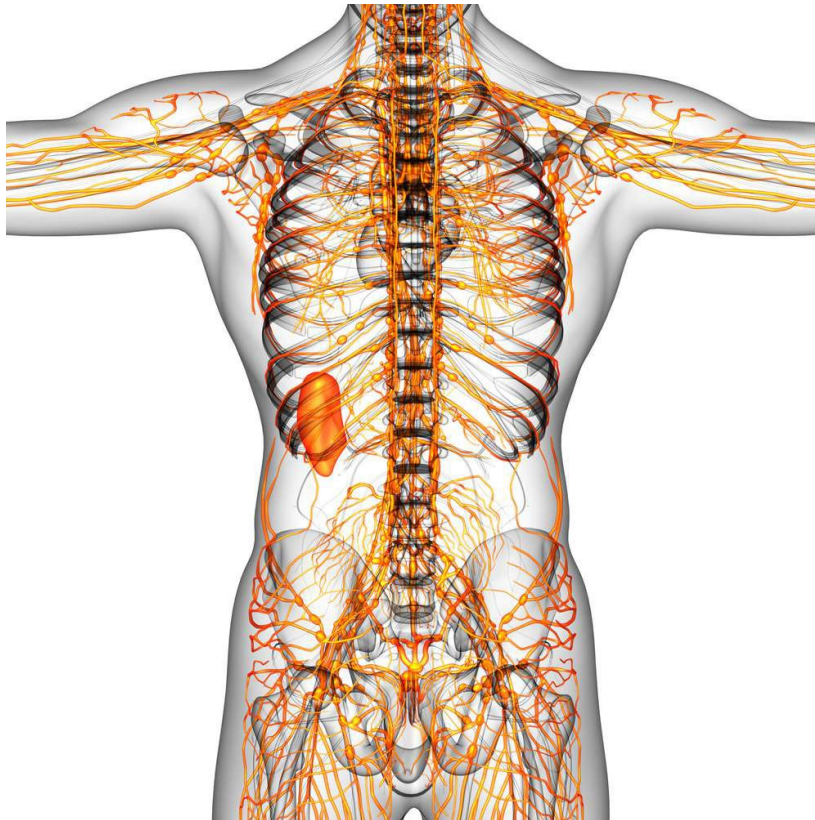
4. Lymphatic Organs:

- Spleen: Filters blood, removes old red blood cells, and stores white blood cells.
- Thymus: Produces T-cells, which fight infections.
- Tonsils and Adenoids: Guard the entrance to your throat, stopping invaders in their tracks.

5. Thoracic Duct:

- The largest lymph vessel in your body.
- Drains lymph from most of the body into the bloodstream.

How Does the Lymphatic System Work?



Picture this: Your blood delivers nutrients to your tissues. But what happens to the leftover fluid and waste products? Enter the lymphatic system! Here's how it works step by step:

1. Fluid Collection:

- Excess fluid from tissues enters tiny lymph capillaries.
- This fluid becomes lymph.

2. Transport and Filtration:

- Lymph travels through vessels to lymph nodes, where immune cells filter out harmful substances.

3. Return to the Bloodstream:

- Cleaned lymph rejoins the blood via the thoracic duct and right lymphatic duct, keeping your fluid balance in

check.

The Magic of Manual Lymphatic Drainage

MLD is designed to encourage lymphatic fluid movement through functioning pathways. Treatment planning should reflect the client's condition, medical history, and scope of practice.

- Prepare proximal drainage regions before working more distally.
- Use gentle, rhythmic skin-stretching movements to encourage fluid movement.
- Direct fluid toward appropriate regional drainage pathways as taught in the practical demonstrations.

Key points to remember when doing manual lymphatic drainage

1. Light as a Feather, Gentle as a Breeze

- The lymphatic system is located just under the skin, so no deep pressure is needed.

- Imagine you're guiding water across a glass surface—soft and rhythmic.

2. Follow the Flow

- Always work toward the lymph nodes and main drainage points.
- For example, start at the neck (where lymph drains into the bloodstream) and work outward to arms, legs,

or other areas.

3. Timing is Everything

- Lymph moves slowly, so your strokes should mimic its pace—about 1-2 seconds per stroke.

Final Thought: Your Role as a Lymphatic Guide

MLD combines precise technique with a calm, gentle treatment approach. Good practice means working within your training, screening carefully, and adapting the session to the individual client.

SECTION 02

Contraindications for Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD)

When practicing Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD), it is essential to consider specific contraindications to ensure the safety of the client. These contraindications can be categorized as absolute (treatment must not be performed) or relative (treatment may be performed with caution under medical supervision).

General Contraindications: Whole Body

Absolute Contraindications MLD must not be performed in the following conditions:

- **Decompensated Cardiac Insufficiency:** The heart is unable to pump blood effectively, making MLD unsafe.
- **Cardiac Edema:** Swelling caused by heart issues that could worsen with lymphatic stimulation.
- **Congestive Heart Failure:** Increased lymph flow may overburden the heart.
- **Acute Inflammation (Pathogenic Germs):** Includes infections caused by bacteria, fungi, or viruses. MLD could

spread pathogens, increasing the risk of systemic infection (sepsis).

- **Renal Failure:** The kidneys cannot process the increased fluid load resulting from MLD.
- **Acute Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT):** Risk of dislodging a blood clot, leading to potentially life-threatening

complications such as a pulmonary embolism. **Relative Contraindication** Proceed with caution and only with medical supervision:

- **Active or recently treated cancer:** MLD is not automatically contraindicated in every case, but treatment should be coordinated with the client's medical team and, when lymphedema is present, a suitably trained lymphedema professional.

Contraindications for Neck Treatment

Absolute Contraindications Do not perform MLD on the neck in the following cases:

- **Overactive Thyroid Function:** Risk of releasing thyroid hormones into the bloodstream too rapidly.
- **Overly Sensitive Carotid Sinus:** Could cause a dangerous drop in blood pressure or heart rate due to overstimulation of pressure-sensitive nerve endings in the carotid bifurcation.
- **Cardiac Arrhythmia:** Stimulation of the vagus nerve in the neck may trigger heart failure in some cases.

Relative Contraindication

- **Older clients:** Age alone is not a contraindication. Screen for cardiovascular, vascular, neurological, medication-related, and other relevant risks, and seek medical guidance when the history indicates it.

arteriosclerosis in the neck vessels may increase sensitivity to pressure, and there is a risk of dislodging deposits, potentially causing a stroke.

Contraindications for Abdomen Treatment

Absolute Contraindications Avoid abdominal MLD in the following conditions:

- **Pregnancy:** Avoid techniques or positioning that are inappropriate for pregnancy and follow your training, local scope of practice, and the client's maternity-care guidance. Abdominal work requires particular caution.
- **Menstruation:** This is not automatically a contraindication, but abdominal work may be modified or avoided if the client is uncomfortable or has unusually heavy bleeding or pain.
- **Seizure disorders:** Obtain a clear history, avoid known triggers, and seek medical guidance when control is poor or the presentation is complex.
- **Blocked Intestine (Ileus):** MLD could worsen an already critical condition.
- **Intestinal Diverticulosis:** Risk of further irritation or complications.
- **Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm:** Avoid post-surgical or untreated aneurysms due to the risk of complications.
- **Severe Arteriosclerosis:** Common in metabolic disorders such as diabetes mellitus, this condition may lead to

vessel damage or plaque dislodgement.

- **Inflammatory Bowel Diseases (e.g., Colitis Ulcerosa, Crohn's Disease):** Increased lymphatic activity may

exacerbate symptoms.

- **Pronounced Abdominal Adhesions:** Often a result of surgical intervention, adhesions may limit safe MLD

application.

- **Post-Radiation Therapy Changes:** Conditions such as radiation cystitis or radiation colitis make abdominal

treatments unsafe.

- **Pelvic Deep Vein Thrombosis:** Increased lymph flow could mobilize clots, leading to severe complications.

Summary

Absolute contraindications mean MLD must not be performed under any circumstances. Relative contraindications require careful consideration and medical consultation before proceeding. Always assess the client's medical history thoroughly and refer to a healthcare professional when in doubt to ensure safe and effective treatment.

SECTION 03

Manual Lymphatic Drainage Sequence

Following the Proximal-to-Distal Principle

Preparation

- 1. Set the Environment:** Create a calm, comfortable atmosphere for the client. Use a massage table and supportive props like pillows or bolsters.
- 2. Focus on Hygiene:** Wash your hands thoroughly to ensure a clean and safe treatment.

Step-by-Step MLD Sequence

1. Stimulating the Deep Abdominal Lymphatics

- Location: Upper abdomen near the diaphragm and lower abdomen.
- Technique:
- Apply gentle rhythmic presses on the abdomen as instructed in the video
- Perform 5–7 strokes per section.
- Purpose: Activates the cisterna chyli, the body's central lymphatic collection point, to prepare for lower body

drainage.

2. Opening the Terminus

- Location: Base of the neck near the clavicle.
- Technique:
- Use light, circular motions or pumping strokes directed toward the venous angles as instructed in the video
- Perform 5–7 strokes on each side.
- Purpose: Opens the primary drainage point, enabling lymphatic fluid from the entire body to flow into the

venous system.

3. Neck Treatment

- Location: Sides of the neck, moving toward the terminus.
- Technique:
- Apply gentle, downward strokes starting at the base of the neck and moving upwards towards the face as

instructed in the video

- Work systematically toward the jawline.
- Perform 5–7 strokes per section.
- Purpose: Drains lymph from the neck and prepares pathways for head and face treatment.

4. Face and Head Treatment

- Location: From the jawline to the top of the head.
- Technique:
- Begin at the jaw and use light strokes downward.
- Continue with circular motions across the cheeks, forehead, and scalp.

- Perform 5–7 strokes per area.
- Purpose: Reduces puffiness, supports sinus drainage, and promotes overall facial rejuvenation.

5. Axillary Nodes (Underarms)

- Location: Underarm area.
- Technique:
 - Use gentle, circular pumping motions to stimulate the axillary nodes.
- Perform 5–7 strokes per side.
- Purpose: Clears fluid from the upper body and arms into the axillary nodes.

6. Upper Extremities (Arms)

- Location: Start at the upper arm near the axilla and work toward the fingers.
- Technique:
 - Use gentle, circular or pumping motions from proximal (shoulder) to distal (hand), directing fluid toward the axillary nodes.
- Perform 5–7 strokes per section.
- Purpose: Promotes lymphatic drainage from the arms and hands into the axillary nodes.

7. Opposite Arm

- Repeat Steps 5 and 6 on the other arm.

8. Chest and Ribcage Treatment

- Location: Across the chest and ribs, including superficial and deep nodes.
- Technique:
 - Use light and rhythmic strokes, clearing the chest and ribcage as instructed in the video.
- Perform 5–7 strokes per section.
- Purpose: Drains lymph from the chest and ribcage, reducing congestion and improving respiratory function.

9. Inguinal Nodes (Groin)

- Location: Inguinal crease where the thigh meets the pelvis.
- Technique:
 - Apply gentle, circular or pumping strokes to stimulate the inguinal nodes.
- Perform 5–7 strokes.
- Purpose: Prepares the lymphatic pathways for fluid drainage from the lower body.

10. Lower Extremities (Legs)

- Location: Start at the upper thigh near the inguinal nodes and work down toward the feet.
- Technique:
 - Use light, sweeping strokes from proximal (thigh) to distal (toes), always directing fluid toward the inguinal nodes.
- Perform 5–7 strokes per section.
- Purpose: Promotes lymphatic drainage from the legs and feet into the inguinal nodes.

Repeat on opposite side

11. Turn Client Over

- Have the client lie on their stomach for the back and posterior leg treatment.

12. Back Treatment

- Location: Start at the upper back and work systematically toward the lower back.
- Technique:
 - Use light, sweeping strokes across the back directing fluid toward the axillary and inguinal nodes as instructed in the video.
 - Perform 5–7 strokes per section.
 - Purpose: Drains lymph from the back into central lymphatic pathways.

13. Buttocks and Back of Legs

- Location: Gluteal region, hamstrings, and calves.
- Technique:
 - Use circular or sweeping motions, directing fluid toward the inguinal nodes.
 - Perform 5–7 strokes per section.
 - Purpose: Clears lymphatic congestion from the posterior chain and supports lower body drainage.
 - Repeat for the opposite leg.

Key Principles for MLD

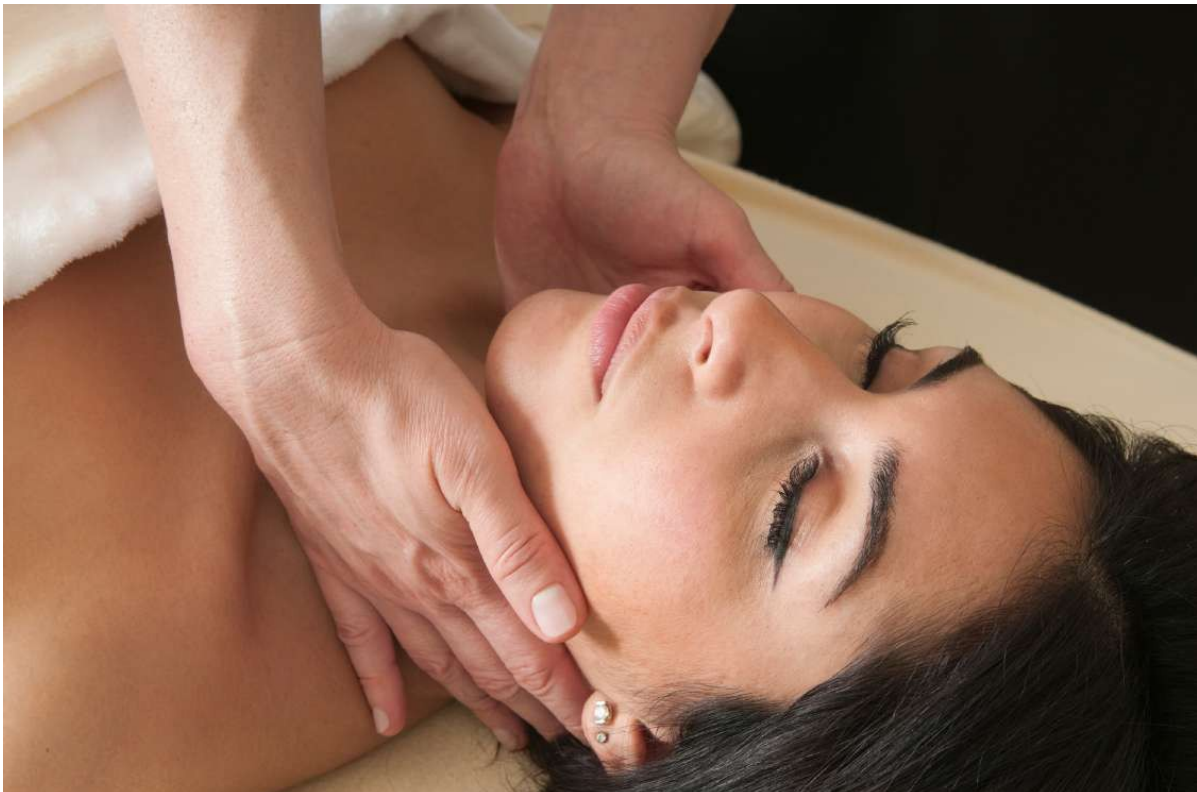
- Always Start Proximal: Open pathways closer to the core before addressing distal areas to allow effective

drainage.

- Use Gentle Pressure: MLD works at the skin level; avoid compressing deeper tissues.
- Maintain a Steady Rhythm: Perform 1 stroke every 2–3 seconds.

By following this proximal-to-distal sequence and adhering to the key principles, you can ensure an effective and professional Manual Lymphatic Drainage treatment for your clients.

Optional Client Marketing Resource



Feel Refreshed and Radiant with Facial Lymphatic Massage. This gentle treatment uses light, rhythmic movements intended to encourage superficial fluid movement, reduce temporary puffiness, and provide a calm, restorative experience. Results vary, and treatment should be adapted to the client's health history and presentation.

What is Manual Lymphatic Drainage?

Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD) is a gentle, rhythmic technique intended to support normal superficial lymphatic fluid movement. The lymphatic system contributes to tissue-fluid balance and immune surveillance. Unlike blood circulation, lymph transport is supported by vessel contractions, breathing, muscle activity, and movement.

Why Choose Lymphatic Massage for Your Face?

Facial lymphatic massage works at the skin's surface, targeting lymphatic structures located in the subcutaneous tissues. It's performed with precise pressure and rhythm to:

- Encourage superficial lymphatic fluid movement.
- Reduce puffiness and fluid retention for a sculpted, defined jawline.
- **Promote a sense of ease and relaxation around the face.**
- Support a calm, restorative treatment experience.
- **Support a refreshed, well-rested appearance.**

What Can You Expect?

Depending on the client, a session may be followed by:

- Brighter, more vibrant eyes.
- Reduced puffiness and less congestion.
- Lightened dark areas under the eyes.
- A more sculpted, defined jawline.
- Softer, smoother, and clearer skin.

Recommended Treatment Plan

An example treatment plan might include:

- **Up to 6 sessions, depending on the client's goals and response:**
- 2 sessions in the first week.
- 1 session per week for the following 4 weeks.

Treatment frequency should be individualized according to the client's goals, response, and any relevant medical guidance.

How Does It Work?

During your session, gentle, precise hand movements are used to:

- 1. Encourage lymph flow from stagnated areas to healthier pathways.**
- 2. Encourage the movement of excess tissue fluid toward functioning lymphatic pathways.**
- 3. Use gentle, superficial movements appropriate for facial tissues.**

This technique is so gentle it works at the skin's surface, making it ideal for even the most sensitive skin.

Why Choose Facial Lymphatic Massage?

- A natural, non-invasive way to rejuvenate your skin.
- Improves skin hydration, firmness, and glow.
- **May help reduce temporary facial puffiness and support a refreshed appearance.**
- Provides immune-boosting benefits.
- Reduces puffiness and promotes a sculpted appearance.

Book Your Session Today! Discover the difference that Facial Rejuvenation with Manual Lymphatic Drainage can make in how you look and feel. Feel lighter, brighter, and more radiant—naturally. Contact us now to schedule your first session! Your journey to glowing skin starts here!

SECTION 04

DIY Face Serums: A Comprehensive Guide



Creating your own face serum is simple and customizable. By blending carrier oils with appropriately diluted essential oils, you can create a personalized skin-care product. Always consider allergies, sensitivities, contraindications, and local cosmetic-product rules.

How to Make Your Own Face Serum

- 1. Choose a Carrier Oil:** Add 2 oz (60 mL) of a carrier oil suitable for your skin type to a clean glass bottle.
- 2. Add Essential Oils:** Add 20 drops of essential oil for a 1% dilution. For sensitive skin or a gentler option, reduce this to 10 drops (0.5% dilution).
- 3. Mix Gently:** Close the lid and gently roll the bottle between your hands for about 30 seconds to combine the oils.
- 4. Apply:** Use a small amount daily by massaging it into your skin with soft, upward strokes.

Choosing the Right Carrier Oil

Carrier oils are the base of your serum and should match your skin type for optimal benefits.

- Normal Skin: Apricot kernel oil, jojoba oil, grapeseed oil, sunflower oil, sweet almond oil
- Dry Skin: Avocado oil, sweet almond oil, rosehip seed oil, apricot kernel oil, sunflower oil
- Acne-Prone Skin: Jojoba oil, sesame oil, argan oil, grapeseed oil, evening primrose oil
- Sensitive Skin: Sunflower oil, jojoba oil, sweet almond oil, rosehip seed oil, argan oil, evening primrose oil

- Oily Skin: Jojoba oil, argan oil, grapeseed oil
- Mature Skin: Rosehip seed oil, jojoba oil, sweet almond oil, apricot kernel oil, avocado oil, tamanu oil

Choosing the Right Essential Oils

Essential oils bring added benefits to your serum, such as hydration, anti-inflammatory properties, and brightening effects.

- Normal Skin: Lavender, frankincense, geranium
- Dry Skin: Geranium, lavender, rose, myrrh, patchouli, ylang ylang, jasmine
- Acne-Prone Skin: Tea tree, lavender, lemongrass, geranium, cedarwood, Roman chamomile
- Sensitive Skin: Helichrysum, lavender, rose, jasmine, frankincense, sandalwood
- Oily Skin: Frankincense, tea tree, ylang ylang, clary sage, rosemary, peppermint
- Mature Skin: Rose, frankincense, helichrysum, geranium, sandalwood, jasmine

Serum Blends for Your Skin Type

For Normal Skin

- Ingredients:
 - **2 oz apricot kernel oil**
 - 8 drops lavender essential oil
 - 8 drops geranium essential oil
 - 4 drops frankincense essential oil
- How to Use: Apply 1–2 drops to the forehead, cheeks, and chin. Gently massage using upward strokes.

For Dry Skin

- Ingredients:
 - **2 oz avocado oil**
 - 5 drops rose essential oil
 - 5 drops jasmine essential oil
 - 5 drops frankincense essential oil
 - 5 drops geranium essential oil
- How to Use: Massage lightly into dry areas for hydration and softness.

For Acne-Prone Skin

- Ingredients:
 - **2 oz jojoba oil**
 - 5 drops tea tree essential oil
 - 5 drops lemongrass essential oil
 - 10 drops lavender essential oil
- How to Use: Focus on blemish-prone areas, avoiding broken skin.

For Sensitive Skin

- Ingredients:
 - **1 oz jojoba oil**
 - **1 oz sweet almond oil**
 - 5 drops helichrysum essential oil
 - 5 drops sandalwood essential oil

- 5 drops frankincense essential oil
- 5 drops lavender essential oil
- How to Use: Gently massage into your skin, avoiding areas of irritation.

For Oily Skin

- Ingredients:
- **1 oz jojoba oil**
- **1 oz argan oil**
- 10 drops cypress essential oil
- 5 drops peppermint essential oil
- 5 drops rosemary essential oil
- How to Use: Apply lightly to avoid a greasy feel while targeting oil control.

For Mature Skin

- Ingredients:
- **2 oz apricot kernel oil**
- 5 drops rose essential oil
- 5 drops helichrysum essential oil
- 5 drops frankincense essential oil
- 5 drops geranium essential oil
- How to Use: Massage gently into fine lines and dry areas for rejuvenation.

For Combination Skin

- Ingredients:
- **1 oz jojoba oil**
- **1 oz rosehip seed oil**
- 5 drops frankincense essential oil
- 5 drops geranium essential oil
- 5 drops lavender essential oil
- 5 drops sandalwood essential oil
- How to Use: Apply to balance areas of dryness and oiliness.

Tips for Using Your Serum

- 1. Patch Test First: Test the serum on a small area of skin before full application.**
- 2. Use Sparingly: A little goes a long way—1-2 drops per area is enough.**
- 3. Store Properly: Keep your serum in a cool, dark place to maintain its potency.**
- 4. Consistency is Key: Use your serum daily for best results, typically after cleansing and before moisturizing.**

By making your own serum, you control the ingredients, ensuring your skincare routine is personalized and natural. Explore these blends and feel the difference in your skin!

Optional Client Marketing Resource

Why Invest in Lymphatic Massage Before and After Surgery?



Enhance Your Recovery with Gentle, Effective Care

Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD) may be used as an adjunct before or after some surgical procedures when the surgeon or treating medical professional considers it appropriate.

Why Choose Lymphatic Massage?

- Reduce Swelling and Discomfort: Feel lighter and less tight as swelling subsides.
- Support Recovery: In appropriately selected clients, MLD may be used to help manage swelling and comfort as part of a broader recovery plan.
- Support Tissue Comfort: Post-surgical care should be individualized; concerns such as persistent swelling, fibrosis, seroma, infection, or wound problems require appropriate medical assessment.
- Relax and De-Stress: Experience a deep sense of calm during treatments, helping you feel better inside and

out.

Benefits of Lymphatic Massage

1. Promotes Smooth, Even Results: Supports the even distribution of scar tissue for natural, beautiful outcomes.

2. Complements Medical Aftercare: MLD may be one part of a multimodal recovery plan when cleared by the surgical team.

3. Encourages Fluid Movement: MLD is intended to support movement of excess interstitial and lymphatic fluid; it should not be described as clearing anesthesia or “detoxing” the body.

4. Promotes Relaxation: The gentle rhythm of MLD can be calming during recovery. Post-surgical constipation should be managed according to medical advice rather than treated with abdominal MLD without clearance.

Plan Ahead for the Best Results

Pre-Surgery:

- Book 2–3 treatments before surgery to prepare your body and lymphatic system. This can help you feel

relaxed and ready for recovery. Post-Surgery:

- Begin treatments as soon as your surgeon gives the green light.
- **Follow the frequency recommended by the surgeon or qualified healthcare professional; timing must be individualized.**
- Always follow your surgeon's aftercare instructions to complement the benefits of MLD.

What to Expect During a Lymphatic Massage

- **Gentle, Rhythmic Strokes:** MLD is a light, soothing technique—no squeezing or deep pressure is involved.
- **Tailored Positioning:** Depending on your comfort, treatments can be done lying down, side-lying, or seated.
- **Focus on Swelling Areas:** Gentle strokes reroute lymphatic fluid away from areas affected by surgery.
- **Whole-Body Approach:** Treatment begins by preparing appropriate proximal drainage areas before working more distally.

and healing. No oils or lotions are used. The therapist's hands apply light pressure, always working with the direction of lymphatic flow.

What Clients Say About Lymphatic Massage

- “I didn’t expect it to be so relaxing! I feel lighter and less tight already.”
- “The swelling in my face and body went down so quickly—my results look smoother and more even.”

Get Back to Feeling Like Yourself Sooner

At our clinic/spa, we specialize in gentle, effective lymphatic massage tailored to your unique recovery journey. Book your pre- and post-surgical lymphatic treatments today and experience faster healing, smoother results, and a more comfortable recovery. Contact us now to schedule your first session! Your healing journey starts here.

Optional Client Marketing Resource

Speed Up Your Recovery with Manual Lymphatic Drainage



Professional Support During Cosmetic Surgery Recovery

Transform Your Post-Surgery Healing Experience

If you have undergone or are planning cosmetic surgery, MLD may be considered as one supportive option within your recovery plan, provided your surgeon or medical team approves it.

What is MLD?

Manual Lymphatic Drainage is a gentle, rhythmic massage technique designed to stimulate the lymphatic system, intended to encourage fluid movement and address selected post-operative swelling when medically approved. By promoting natural drainage pathways, MLD may support comfort as one component of an approved recovery plan.

Why Choose MLD After Surgery?

Claims that MLD universally shortens healing by a specific number of months are not well supported. Outcomes depend on the procedure, the individual, and the rest of the recovery plan.

The Benefits of MLD for Cosmetic-Surgery Patients

1. Bruising Reduction:

- Bruising: Gentle postoperative care may support comfort, but avoid promising a specific rate of bruise resolution.

2. Edema (Swelling) Reduction:

- MLD reroutes lymph fluid to unaffected pathways, reducing swelling and speeding up recovery.

3. Pain Relief:

- Relieves pressure caused by fluid buildup, reducing pain and discomfort. Many clients report needing less

pain medication.

4. Scar Tissue Prevention:

- Fibrosis and scar concerns: These require individualized assessment. MLD may be incorporated into a broader plan when clinically appropriate, but it should not be presented as guaranteeing scar prevention.

5. Minimized Downtime:

- Resume your normal activities sooner with significantly reduced recovery time.

Coordinate With the Medical Team**Why Choose MLD?**

- Gentle and Non-Invasive: MLD uses light manual techniques. As with any intervention, appropriate screening and clinical judgment are still required.
- Evidence-Informed Use: Evidence differs across conditions and procedures, so treatment should be individualized and coordinated with the medical team when necessary.
- Tailored to You: Sessions are customized to your needs and recovery timeline.

Don't Wait—Book Your Appointments Today!

Ensure your body has the best chance to heal smoothly and quickly. Plan your MLD sessions pre- and post-surgery to experience:

- Less swelling
- Faster recovery
- **Support for a comfortable, well-coordinated recovery**

Contact us today to schedule your MLD treatments and feel the difference! Your journey to a better recovery starts here.

SECTION 05

Swollen Ankles and Feet Foot Soak Recipe



Refresh, Revitalize, and Relax!

Give your feet the care they deserve with this luxurious foot soak—perfect after a long day on your feet! This recipe not only soothes swollen ankles and tired feet but also revitalizes your mind and reduces mental fatigue. Whether you're looking to pamper yourself or create a spa product for your clients, this foot soak is a must-try.

Ingredients

- 3 drops Lemongrass Essential Oil
- 2 drops Lavender Essential Oil
- 3 tablespoons Pink Himalayan Salt (small grain)
- 1 teaspoon Jojoba Oil
- 1 teaspoon Baking Soda

Directions

Step 1:

Mix the essential oils with the jojoba oil to dilute them safely.

Step 2:

Combine the jojoba oil and essential oils mixture with the pink Himalayan salt and baking soda.

Step 3:

Prepare a hot water foot bath. Test the water to ensure it's warm but not too hot for comfort.

Step 4:

Add the prepared blend to the foot bath and stir to dissolve.

Step 5:

Soak your feet for 15 minutes while you relax and unwind.

Safety and Dilution

- Sensitive Skin: Lemongrass oil may irritate sensitive skin. Use caution or reduce the amount if needed.
- Kid Safety: Suitable for children aged 10 and above.

Tip: This foot soak makes a wonderful spa retail product—perfect for clients to take home or as a luxurious addition to your services. Treat yourself or your clients to blissful relaxation today!

SECTION 06

Scar Salve Recipe



Scar Salve for Cosmetic Skin Conditioning. This salve combines carrier oils, beeswax, and essential oils for use on intact, fully healed skin. It is not intended to treat wounds, prevent scarring, or replace medical care. Patch test before use and avoid application to open, irritated, infected, or incompletely healed skin.

Ingredients

- 10 drops Helichrysum italicum Essential Oil
- 5 drops Myrrh Essential Oil
- 5 drops Frankincense Essential Oil
- 1/2 oz Beeswax Pellets
- 1 fl oz Moringa Oil
- 1 fl oz Tamanu Oil

Supplies

- 3 Aluminum Lip Balm Tins or Glass Jars (approx. 1 oz each)
- Double boiler or Pyrex/glass measuring cup and a saucepan for melting

Directions

Step 1:

Melt the beeswax pellets in a double boiler. (A Pyrex measuring cup in a pot of simmering water works perfectly for this step.)

Step 2:

Once the beeswax is almost fully melted, add the moringa oil and tamanu oil to the mixture. Stir gently until fully combined and melted.

Step 3:

Remove the melted mixture from the heat and add the essential oils. Stir thoroughly to ensure even distribution.

Step 4:

Quickly pour the mixture into your aluminum tins or glass jars. Allow the salve to cool and solidify completely before sealing the containers.

Storage and Use

- Store in a cool, dry place away from direct sunlight.
- Apply a small amount of salve to the scarred area and massage gently until absorbed. Use daily for best

results. This scar salve is a natural, effective way to support your skin's healing process, leaving it looking and feeling healthier. Perfect for personal use or as a thoughtful gift!

Optional Client Marketing Resource

Feeling Tired All the Time? Reclaim Your Energy with Lymphatic Drainage Massage If constant fatigue is slowing you down, Lymphatic Drainage Massage (MLD) could be the solution you've been looking for. This gentle, superficial massage technique uses gentle, superficial movements intended to support normal lymphatic fluid movement and relaxation, reduces fatigue, and revitalizes your energy levels.

What is Lymphatic Drainage Massage?

The lymphatic system helps maintain fluid balance and supports immune surveillance. Unlike the circulatory system, it doesn't have a pump, relying instead on movement to function effectively. Today's sedentary lifestyles often leave it sluggish, which is where MLD comes in. Using light, rhythmic pressure, a skilled therapist stimulates lymph flow, focusing on areas with a high concentration of lymph nodes such as the axillary (underarm) and inguinal (groin) regions. This process helps move stagnant lymph fluid, releasing waste products from your body through increased urination.

What Will You Feel After Lymphatic Drainage?

Many clients report feeling:

- Lighter limbs: A sense of ease and reduced swelling.
- Increased relaxation: MLD promotes calmness and reduces stress.
- A refreshed feeling: Some clients report feeling relaxed or refreshed after treatment.
- Temporary reduction in puffiness: Some clients notice changes in areas affected by mild fluid retention.
- Comfort: Some clients report reduced feelings of heaviness or tightness when swelling is present.

How Often Should You Schedule Lymphatic Drainage Massage?

For optimal results, a series of sessions is recommended:

Protocol for Frequency:

1. Week 1: 2 sessions

2. Week 2: 2 sessions

3. Week 3: 1 session

4. Week 4: 1 session

5. Week 5: 1 session

6. Week 6: 1 session

This structured plan ensures your lymphatic system is stimulated consistently for lasting benefits.

Why Do We Need to Manually Move the Lymph System?

Normal lymph movement is supported by factors including skeletal-muscle activity, breathing, and intrinsic lymphatic vessel contractions. Regular movement is one practical way to support circulation and general health.

- Improve waste removal.
- **Support normal tissue-fluid movement.**
- Support overall health.

Why Is Lymph Movement Vital for Health?

The lymphatic system helps maintain fluid balance and supports immune surveillance. Lymph nodes filter lymph and provide sites where immune cells can respond to foreign material.

Take the First Step Toward Renewed Energy

Lymphatic Drainage Massage is more than just a relaxation technique—it's an investment in your health. Clear fluid movement, relaxation, and general wellbeing. Book your session today and experience the revitalizing effects of this powerful therapy!

SECTION 07

Lymphatic Drainage, Swelling, and Edema Using Aromatherapy



This section focuses on how to use essential oils in conjunction with lymphatic drainage techniques to reduce swelling, support relaxation and complement appropriately selected lymphatic techniques. Aromatherapy is a powerful tool that can be incorporated into your practice or self-care routine, provided it is used correctly and safely.

Essential Oils for Lymphatic Support

The following essential oils are commonly used in aromatherapy blends associated with relaxation, skin care, and massage. Evidence that essential oils directly increase lymphatic flow or treat edema is limited.

Recommended Essential Oils:

- Grapefruit (*Citrus paradisi*)
- Lemon (*Citrus limon*)
- Geranium (*Pelargonium graveolens*)
- Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)

Dilution Guidelines:

- For small areas: Use a 2–4% dilution.
- For full-body treatments: Use a 1–2% dilution.

How to Use Essential Oils Safely

Blending and Application Tips:

1. Mix essential oils with a carrier oil, lotion, or gel before application.
2. Use light, rhythmic massage strokes or lymphatic drainage techniques toward the heart to encourage lymph flow.
3. Create small batches for clients to use at home between treatments for continued care.

Understanding Phototoxicity

Some essential oils can cause photosensitivity, which results in burns or skin irritation when exposed to sunlight or tanning beds after application.

Phototoxic Essential Oils:

- Bergamot (Citrus bergamia)
- Lemon (Citrus limon)
- Cold-Pressed Lime (Citrus aurantifolia)
- Grapefruit (Citrus paradisi)
- Bitter Orange (Citrus aurantium)

How to Avoid Phototoxic Reactions:

- Limit the amount of phototoxic oils in blends if they will be applied to exposed skin.
- Keep treated areas covered or apply oils to areas not exposed to sunlight.
- Safe dilution rates for phototoxic oils:
 - Bergamot: 2 drops per 1 oz (30 ml) of carrier oil
 - Lemon: 12 drops per 1 oz (30 ml) of carrier oil
 - Grapefruit: 24 drops per 1 oz (30 ml) of carrier oil

Non-Phototoxic Citrus Oils:

Not all citrus oils are phototoxic. These can be used safely:

- Distilled Lemon (Citrus limon)
- Distilled Lime (Citrus aurantifolia)
- Cold-Pressed Mandarin (Citrus reticulata)
- Cold-Pressed Sweet Orange (Citrus sinensis)

Blending Guidelines

Short-Term Use (1–2 Weeks, 4% Dilution):

Use only when appropriate for the client and, after surgery, only with clearance from the treating medical team.

- Lavender (Lavandula angustifolia): 12 drops (analgesic and anti-inflammatory)
- Grapefruit (Citrus paradisi): 6 drops
- Lemon (Citrus limon): 6 drops

- **Carrier Oil: 30 mL (1 fl oz)**

Long-Term Use (Daily for 1 Month, 1% Dilution):

Ideal for ongoing lymphatic support or chronic swelling.

- Grapefruit (Citrus paradisi): 4 drops
- Lemon (Citrus limon): 1 drop
- Geranium (Pelargonium graveolens): 1 drop
- **Carrier Oil: 30 mL (1 fl oz)**

Note: Rotate essential oils every month to prevent sensitivity.

Post-Injury/Operation Blend (4% Dilution):

Designed for short-term use to support healing.

- Lavender (Lavandula angustifolia): 12 drops
- Grapefruit (Citrus paradisi): 6 drops
- Lemon (Citrus limon): 6 drops
- **Carrier Oil: 30 mL (1 fl oz)**

Dilution Rates and Usage

- Short-Term Use: For acute issues like a sprain, use up to 4% dilution for 1–2 weeks.
- Long-Term Use: For daily application, use a 1% dilution and rotate oils monthly.

Dilution Reference:

- 1% dilution = 6 drops of essential oil per 1 oz (30 ml) carrier oil.
- 4% dilution = 24 drops of essential oil per 1 oz (30 ml) carrier oil.

Special Considerations

- Cancer Treatment: Avoid essential oils from one week before to one month after chemotherapy or radiotherapy due to potential interactions with immune mechanisms.
- Internal Use: Essential oils should only be taken internally under the guidance of a qualified clinical aromatherapist.

Practical Safety Tips

- Perform a patch test before using new essential oil blends.
- Always use essential oils in recommended dilution rates.
- Avoid combining multiple phototoxic oils in a single blend if exposed to sunlight.

Conclusion

Aromatherapy may be used as an optional sensory or skin-care component of a treatment when appropriate. It should not be presented as a substitute for evidence-based management of edema or lymphedema.

SECTION 08

How is Lymphedema Different from Edema?



While both lymphedema and edema involve swelling, they arise from distinct causes and require different treatments. Understanding these differences is essential for effective management and care.

Edema

Edema is swelling caused by excess fluid in the tissues. It may be temporary, but it can also be persistent or a sign of an underlying medical condition.

Causes of Edema:

- **Injury or Trauma:** Swelling often accompanies injuries such as sprains or bumps, as the body directs extra

fluid to the area for healing.

- **Circulatory Problems:** Conditions such as chronic venous insufficiency, congestive heart failure, and deep

vein thrombosis can result in fluid buildup, typically in the lower limbs.

Characteristics of Edema:

- **Temporary Swelling:** Resolves as the injury heals or when the underlying circulatory issue is addressed.
- **Pitting or non-pitting:** Edema can present in different ways. Pitting edema leaves an indentation after pressure; non-pitting edema does not.
- **Treatment Options:** Some types of edema respond to diuretics (water pills), which help the body eliminate

excess water and sodium. Swelling from injuries often resolves on its own with time and rest.

Lymphedema

Lymphedema is a chronic condition caused by a malfunction in the lymphatic system, leading to an accumulation of lymph fluid in tissues.

Causes of Lymphedema:

- **Lymphatic System Damage:** Commonly occurs after cancer treatments like surgery or radiation that damage or remove lymph nodes.
- **Impaired Drainage:** Blocked or damaged lymphatic pathways prevent the efficient removal of fluid, causing swelling.

Characteristics of Lymphedema:

- **Chronic Swelling:** The buildup of lymph fluid does not resolve on its own.
- **Pitting Edema in Early Stages:** Pressing a finger into the swollen area leaves an indentation.
- **No Response to Diuretics:** Unlike edema, lymphedema swelling is caused by lymph fluid rather than water retention, so diuretics are ineffective.
- **Slow Healing and Infection Risk:** Lymphedema can cause slow healing in affected areas and increase susceptibility to infections.

Long-Term Management:

Lymphedema is usually a chronic condition, but appropriate management can reduce swelling, improve comfort and function, and lower the risk of complications.

Complete Decongestive Therapy (CDT)

Complete Decongestive Therapy (CDT) is a standard conservative approach used to manage lymphedema, particularly stage II disease.

Components of CDT:

1. Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD):

A specialized massage technique that redirects lymph fluid around blockages to reduce swelling.

2. Compression Therapy:

Includes multi-layer bandaging or compression garments to prevent fluid buildup.

3. Exercise:

Gentle, targeted movements stimulate lymphatic flow and improve mobility.

4. Skin Care:

Proper hygiene and moisturization reduce the risk of infections and improve skin condition.

5. Dietary Adjustments:

Eating a healthy diet supports overall lymphatic health and reduces swelling.

Benefits of CDT:

- Decreases swelling and improves lymphatic flow.

- Relieves discomfort and enhances mobility.
- Prevents fibrosis (thickening and scarring of tissue).
- Improves skin texture and overall quality of life.

Why is Lymphatic Movement Important?

The lymphatic system helps maintain fluid balance and supports immune function. When lymphatic transport is impaired, swelling and tissue changes can develop.

The Key Differences Between Edema and Lymphedema

Edema is typically a temporary condition caused by injury or circulatory issues and can often be treated with rest or diuretics. Lymphedema, on the other hand, is a chronic condition caused by lymphatic system impairment and requires specialized treatments such as manual lymphatic drainage, compression therapy, and lifestyle adjustments. By understanding these distinctions, you can better manage and care for these conditions, improving outcomes and quality of life for individuals experiencing swelling.

SECTION 09

Self-Treatment for Lymphedema in the Limbs

When the lymphatic system is compromised, such as after lymph node removal during cancer treatment, a specific type of swelling called lymphedema can occur. This condition is caused by localized damage to the lymphatic circulatory system. While self-treatment can complement professional care, it's essential to work closely with a certified lymphatic drainage therapist and/or your physician to ensure safe and effective management.

Understanding Lymphedema and Professional Support

- Who Can Help?

Suspected or diagnosed lymphedema requires appropriate medical assessment and condition-specific training. For complex cases involving additional medical issues, referral to a physician or certified lymphedema specialist is necessary.

- Why Self-Treatment?

Self-manual lymphatic drainage (self-MLD) is an excellent way to complement professional treatments and manage swelling between sessions.

Self-Manual Lymphatic Drainage (Self-MLD): Video and Instructions

To guide you through self-MLD for the upper extremities, please refer to the instructional video here: [Self-MLD Video Link](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ensO7wP09dc>) This video covers the basic techniques, sequence, and essential details such as pressure and strokes, allowing you to follow along confidently at home.

Text Instructions for Clients

Here's a summary of the self-MLD technique for upper extremities, designed to help reduce swelling in the arm, hand, or upper trunk. These techniques are not a replacement for professional care but serve as a valuable addition to an edema management plan.

When NOT to Perform Self-MLD:

- If you have painful or enlarged lymph nodes.
- If you notice unusual redness or warmth in the skin.
- If you feel unwell overall.

Important: If you experience any of the above symptoms, contact your doctor immediately as these may indicate an infection.

Pointers for Performing Self-MLD:

1. No Lotion: Perform the strokes on bare skin to allow your hands to grip and stretch the skin effectively.

Avoid

lotions or oils during the treatment.

2. Stroke Timing: Perform strokes every 2–3 seconds, aiming for 5–7 strokes per position. Areas with more

swelling may need extra focus.

3. Light Pressure: Use gentle pressure, approximately the weight of your hand. The massage should never cause pain or reddening of the skin.

Why Self-MLD is Effective

Self-MLD encourages the natural flow of lymph fluid, helping to reduce swelling and discomfort. By following the demonstrated sequence, you can target specific areas with swelling and improve lymphatic circulation.

Important Reminder

While self-MLD is beneficial, it's not a substitute for professional MLD therapy. Always consult your healthcare provider for any new or worsening symptoms and ensure your self-care routine aligns with your overall treatment plan.

For full instructions, watch the video here:

[Self-MLD Video Link](<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ensO7wP09dc>)

SECTION 10

Conclusion and Final Thoughts

Congratulations on completing this workbook on Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD)! You have taken an important step toward mastering a powerful, natural technique that supports health, healing, and overall well-being. MLD is more than a massage modality—it's a gentle yet profoundly effective approach to enhancing the normal fluid balance and immune function. By understanding the lymphatic system, learning the step-by-step sequences, and adhering to the principles of proximal-to-distal treatment, you now have the tools to make a significant impact on your clients' health and quality of life.

Key Takeaways

1. The Lymphatic System's Vital Role:

The lymphatic system is essential for maintaining fluid balance, transporting lymph, and supporting immune function.

2. Proximal-to-Distal Principle:

Always begin by clearing the central pathways near the terminus and main lymph nodes before working on distal areas. This ensures effective fluid drainage and reduces congestion.

3. Gentle and Purposeful Touch:

MLD relies on light, rhythmic pressure to move lymph at the skin level. Proper technique avoids damaging delicate tissues while enhancing lymphatic flow.

4. Adaptability:

The principles and techniques of MLD can be customized for various conditions, including post-surgical recovery, lymphedema management, cosmetic treatments, and general wellness.

5. Holistic Benefits:

In addition to its clinical use in selected fluid-management settings, many clients find the gentle rhythm of MLD relaxing and calming.

Next Steps

- Practice Makes Perfect:

Revisit the sequences and techniques frequently. Practicing on different individuals will help you refine your touch and develop confidence in your skills.

- Continued Education:

Stay updated on the latest research and advancements in MLD. Consider taking advanced courses to expand your expertise, particularly in working with clients with complex medical conditions.

- Client Communication:

Educate your clients about the benefits of MLD, the importance of regular treatments, and how they can support their lymphatic health through hydration, exercise, and proper self-care. Whether you are a therapist enhancing your practice or someone learning for personal use, your dedication to understanding MLD will provide lasting benefits to everyone you treat. The lymphatic system often works quietly in the background, but your work ensures it functions at its best, helping others feel lighter, healthier, and more balanced. Remember, you're not just performing a treatment—you're offering a path to improved well-being. Keep practicing, keep learning, and keep making a difference. Thank you for investing your time and energy into this workbook. The knowledge you've gained is a gift to yourself and those you serve. Best of luck on your MLD journey! kind regards, Mark

Evidence & Professional References

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PROFESSIONAL NOTE

This workbook is an educational resource. It does not replace medical diagnosis, medical treatment, surgeon instructions, or specialist lymphedema care. Laws and scope-of-practice rules vary by location.

Kind regards,
Mark Perren-Jones