



**Wrightington, Wigan and  
Leigh Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Elbow Exercises Level 3

# Elbow Exercises Level 3

## Patient Information

## Musculoskeletal (MSK) Physiotherapy Services

- Author ID: GE
- Leaflet ref: Tpy 036
- Leaflet Ref: 2
- Version: Elbow Exercises Level 3
- Date Produced: January 2024
- Expiry Date: January 2026

## Disclaimer

Not all exercises are suitable for everyone, and while every precaution was taken in selecting these exercises, they do not come without risks. If you have any concerns regarding injury, or whether or not you should partake in the exercises, then you should consult your General Practitioner (GP) or Physiotherapist prior to commencing any exercises shown here.

It is quite normal to feel some discomfort following exercise, but it is important that this discomfort eases within 2 hours of finishing the exercise and doesn't have an overall negative effect on your symptoms.

The exercise plans shown here are designed to be used as a guide and a point of reference; they are not exhaustive and can be modified and progressed under the supervision of your physiotherapist.

## Instructions

- Aim to do the exercise plan 3 to 4 times per week, with at least 1 day off in between to allow for recovery.
- The number of repetitions is a guide and can be increased or decreased according to pain levels. If the exercise causes pain that lasts for more than 2 hours after finishing the exercise, then decrease the repetitions.
- Complete each exercise slowly and in a controlled manner; you should take your time and not rush. Take 30 seconds rest in between each set.

**Contact the Physio department if you find the exercises are making your pain worse overall.**

## Contact Information

### **Leigh Health Centre**

Telephone: 0300 707 1597

Email: [wwl-tr.leighphysio@nhs.net](mailto:wwl-tr.leighphysio@nhs.net)

### **Platt Bridge Health Centre**

Telephone: 0300 707 1772

[wwl-tr.mskphysio-bostonhouse@nhs.net](mailto:wwl-tr.mskphysio-bostonhouse@nhs.net)

### **Wigan Health Centre, Boston House**

Telephone: 0300 707 1113

Email: [wwl-tr.mskphysio-bostonhouse@nhs.net](mailto:wwl-tr.mskphysio-bostonhouse@nhs.net)

### **Therapy Department- Wrightington Hospital**

Telephone: 01257 256305

Email: [wwl-tr.therapyadmin@nhs.net](mailto:wwl-tr.therapyadmin@nhs.net)

## Elbow Level 3 – Exercises 1 to 5



## 1. Weighted Swings

Ideally use a kettlebell if you have access to one. If not, a bag containing some water bottles can work as a substitute. Start with the weight between your feet. On the thrust action from your hips swing the weight

A good height to swing the weight to is the level of your head.

Add speed to the swing with every swing and relax back to the starting position; do not use your hands to speed with your hands.

Repeat 10 times. Sets 3.



### 1. Shoulder Press

Stand tall or sit in a chair. Hold weights at shoulder height with your elbows pointing to the sides. If you don't have dumbbells, then bottles of water can be used.

Press the weights up to straight arms. Return to the starting position in a controlled manner.

Note:

- Try not to shrug your shoulders.
- Keep abdominals tight to avoid rounding your back or extending your lower back.

Repeat 10 times. Sets 3.



### 1. Forward Falls

On your knees, fall forwards landing on your hands. Soften the landing by bending your elbows and pulling your chest to the floor.

Lift yourself back into a kneeling position.

Repeat 10 times. Sets 3.



### 1. Plank Lifts/High Plank to Low Plank

Start on your hands and toes, with your body in a straight line.

Lower yourself down onto your elbows trying to keep your back as straight as possible.

Push yourself back up onto your hands.

Repeat 10 times. Sets 3.



### 1. Push Up

On your hands and knees, hands slightly wider than shoulders. Buttocks and trunk active, body in a straight line.

In a controlled manner, lower your chest close to the floor. Push back up.

NB: If you can manage, you can do this in the full press up position, rather than on your knees. As shown in the 2<sup>nd</sup> photo.

Repeat 10 times. Sets 3.



Version number: **2**  
Last modified date: **13th June 2026**

All rights reserved © 2026  
WWL Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust