RELEASE, REFRESH, REFOCUS

Breathwork

Presented by your Employee Assistance Program

Together, all the way.°



SEMINAR GOALS

-0-	

- Understand the positive effects of focused breathing
- Explore several different breathing techniques
- Learn how you can use breathing techniques in your daily life
- Review the benefits of your Employee Assistance Program (EAP)



WHEN STRESS IS WINNING



- Body holds tension
- Breaths are shallow, quick
- How can we push back?

Breathe!



Follow the breath



Belly/diaphragmatic breathing



THE POWER OF BREATHING

- Cues relaxation response
- Creates a focal point
- Can lessen acute or chronic tension
- Is always available to you







4-7-8 breathing



Mindful release breathing





USING IN DAILY LIFE

- When you feel tension
- Before or during anxious moments
- As a habit to start or end the day
- May be helpful in managing insomnia



Breathwork is just one way to stimulate the relaxation response. You may want to explore others as well.





- Face-to-face sessions
- Confidential
- Prepaid
- Unlimited telephonic consultation
- Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Household benefit
- Work/life support such as elder care, child care and pet care
- Convenience services
- Financial services
- Legal services

BENEFITS OF THE EAP

Benefits vary by employer. Please check with your HR for your specific EAP benefits.



REFERENCES

American Medical Student Association (AMSA). (2018, August 18). *Healing the healer: Breathing.* <u>https://www.amsa.org/healing-the-healer-breathing</u>

- André, C. (2019, January 15). *Proper breathing brings better health.* Scientific American. <u>https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/proper-breathing-brings-better-health/</u>
- Harvard Health Publications. (2020, July 6). *Understanding the stress response*. Retrieved from http://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/understanding-the-stress-response
- Healthwise Staff. (2020, August 31). *Stress management: Breathing exercises for relaxation.* University of Michigan Health. Retrieved from <u>https://www.uofmhealth.org/health-library/uz2255</u>
- Newsom, R. (2020, December 18). *Relaxation exercises to help fall asleep*. Sleep Foundation. <u>https://www.sleepfoundation.org/sleep-hygiene/relaxation-exercises-to-help-fall-asleep</u>



This material is provided by Cigna for informational/educational purposes only. It is not intended as medical/clinical advice. Only a health care professional can make a diagnosis or recommend a treatment plan. For more information about your behavioral health coverage, you can call the customer service or the behavioral health telephone number listed on your health care identification card.

All Cigna products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation. All pictures are used for illustrative purposes only.

880843c 01/22 © 2022 Cigna Some content provided under license.

