

# Relaxation

# **Diaphragmatic Breathing**

Diaphragmatic Breathing, or deep breathing, is breathing that is done by contracting the diaphragm, a muscle located horizontally between the tho-racic cavity and abdominal cavity. Air enters the lungs and the chest rises and the belly expands during this type of breathing.

### How to do it:

Place one hand on your chest and one hand on your stomach

Breathe in and allow your stomach to swell. The tummy-hand should feel a pronounced rise and fall whereas the chest hand should move very little, if at all. Imagine you have four lungs: two in your chest and two in your stomach area. Imagine the 'lungs' in your stomach are fill-ing with air



#### Slowly breathe out. Imagine the 'lungs' in your stomach are deflating

### Repeat this to a regular rhythm.

#### Information provided by:

The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust **Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**