

**LEGEND**

Decision Point	<span style="background-color: red; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>
Selection	<span style="border: 1px solid gray; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>
Diagnostic Step	<span style="background-color: yellow; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>
Action Item	<span style="background-color: teal; width: 20px; height: 10px; display: inline-block;"></span>

# C-Spine Injury (Suspected)

**Transfer Off  
Spine Board  
with C-Spine  
precautions** !

- Maintain neutral positioning
  - Replace extrication collar with Vista collar
  - 3-person turn/log-roll

**Head Injury? GCS < 15?**

No
Yes

**Apply Canadian  
C-Spine rules**

**CT Head and  
C-Spine**

**Follow CPG for  
C-Spine clearance of  
obtunded patient**

**Radiography Indicated?**

No
Yes

**Trauma, ED, ICU  
or Spine Staff  
Clear C-Spine**

**Positive Findings on CT C-spine?**

No
Yes

**Trauma, ED, ICU  
or Spine Staff  
Clear C-Spine**

**Maintain C-Spine  
Precaution  
Consult Spine Service  
CT Arch to Vertex**

**References**

Como JJ, Diaz JJ, Dunham CM, Chiu WC, Duane TM, Capella JM, et al. Practice Management Guidelines for Identification of Cervical Spine Injuries Following Trauma: Update from the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma Practice Management Guidelines Committee. *The Journal of Trauma: Injury, Infection and Critical Care*. 2009 Sep;67(3):651-9.

Patel MB, Humble SS, Cullinane DC, Day MA, Jawa RS, Devin CJ, et al. Cervical spine collar clearance in the obtunded adult blunt trauma patient. *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*. 2015 Feb;78(2):430-41.

Stiell IG, Clement CM, McKnight RD, et al. The Canadian C-spine rule versus NEXUS Low-Risk Criteria in patients with trauma. *N Engl J Med* 2003; 349:2510-2518.