

# Canadian C-Spine Rule

For alert (GCS=15) and stable trauma patients where cervical spine injury is a concern.  
Please check all variables that apply:

## 1. Any High-Risk Factor Which Mandates Radiography?

- Age  $\geq$  65 years
- or
- Dangerous mechanism \*
- or
- Paresthesias in extremities

No

## 2. Any Low-Risk Factor Which Allows Safe Assessment of Range of Motion?

- Simple rearend MVC \*\*
- or
- Sitting position in ED
- or
- Ambulatory at any time
- or
- Delayed onset of neck pain \*\*\*
- or
- Absence of midline c-spine tenderness

Yes

## 3. Able to Actively Rotate Neck?

- 45° left and right

Able

No Radiography

Yes

No

Radiography

Unable

### \* Dangerous Mechanism:

- fall from elevation  $\geq$  3 feet / 5 stairs
- axial load to head, e.g. diving
- MVC high speed ( $>$  100km/hr), rollover, ejection
- motorized recreational vehicles
- bicycle struck or collision

### \*\* Simple Rearend MVC Excludes:

- pushed into oncoming traffic
- hit by bus / large truck
- rollover
- hit by high speed vehicle

### \*\*\* Delayed:

- i.e. not immediate onset of neck pain