

# C-Spine Clearance Algorithm

## \*\*NSGY follow-up:

1. call APP between 0600-2000 for appointment
2. APP will make appointment and clinic will call the patient
3. Make sure you provide a phone number with consult
4. Leave pt on the list until APP is called. Put the name of APP on the list

## Does the patient have any of the following?

- Mechanism consistent with injury
- Altered mental status
- Tenderness over cervical spine
- Age >65
- Neuro deficits
- Distracting injury
- Obtunded

YES

NO

NORMAL

ABNORMAL

NO

YES

ABNORMAL

NORMAL

YES

YES

NO

\*Tenderness, Pain, or Neurological Sx?  
(Obtunded patients w/normal CT may have collar removed)

CT cervical spine

Consult Neurosurgery

Drug or alcohol intoxication?

CT cervical spine,

Clear spine clinically

Remove collar. Clear spine.

Does the patient require admission for another reason?

Place in Aspen collar and consult NSGY

\*Clinical Examination of the C-Spine:  
1. Patient is awake & alert\*\*  
2. Assess for tenderness over C1-C7  
3. Active range of motion of the neck  
4. Document exam

Remove c-collar

Neck pain present, but NO radiculopathy or weakness: discharge in ASPEN and f/u w/NSGY in 6 weeks. Educate patient to f/u sooner for worsening pain.\*\*

Presence of any weakness or radiculopathy requires a NSGY evaluation prior to discharge