Pediatric Cervical Spine Clearance Guideline

Trauma Evaluation of Infant, Child or Adolescent < 18yo

Cervical Spine Clearance Screen
(Nexus & Canadian Criteria)
- Posterior midline cervical tenderness?
- Pain with active range of motion of neck?
- Focal neurological deficit?
- Acute mental status change?
- Suspected intoxication/drug use?
- Pain that may distract from cervical pain?

For Consults outside of Masonic ED-
- Obtain C-spine X-rays
- If pain/tenderness persists without paresthesia or severe c-spine pain, and radiographs are normal, may discharge home in a pediatric Aspen Collar with follow-up with Pediatric Neurosurgery Clinic in 2 weeks
  - 612-624-6666
- Contact Neurosurgery if there are concerns with paresthesia, severe c-spine pain, or abnormal radiographs
  - Call 888-KIDS-UMN (888-543-7866) for Neurosurgery Consult or to Transfer to UMMCH

CT scans do not rule out ligamentous injuries & therefore cannot clear the c-spine of a pediatric patient.

In-house - Masonic ED
- Obtain C-spine X-rays
- If pain/tenderness persists without paresthesia or severe c-spine pain, and radiographs are normal, may discharge home in a pediatric Aspen Collar with follow-up with Pediatric Neurosurgery Clinic in 2 weeks
- Contact Neurosurgery if there are concerns with paresthesia, severe c-spine pain, or abnormal radiographs
- Consult Trauma

Negative:
- Clear C-spine

Approved by UMMCH Trauma Committee August 2016