

Cervical Spine RELIABLE Exam Algorithm

Does the patient have any of the following?

- Altered mental status (GCS <14)
- Young age (careful consideration given to those under 2 years)
- Developmental or pre-existing musculoskeletal concerns
- Posterior midline neck tenderness to palpation
- Neck pain, including with range of motion
- Abnormal head posture or torticollis
- Weakness, paresthesias, or other focal neurologic deficit
- Distracting injury (femur fracture, visible or known substantial injury to chest/abdomen/pelvis requiring admission or surgery)
- Concerning mechanism (axial load, diving, "clothes-line," suspicion for intracranial injury secondary to child physical abuse [CPA], high-risk MVC*)

*High risk MVC:

- Head-on collision
- Rollover
- Ejection from vehicle
- Death in same crash
- Speed >55 mph

