Adult Cervical Spine Evaluation
Patient meets trauma activation criteria

- Penetrating Trauma
  - Remove cervical collar unless trajectory suggests direct injury to cervical spine

- Blunt Trauma
  - Apply NEXUS Criteria
    - Any tenderness at posterior neck midline?
    - Any focal neurologic deficit?
    - Any decreased level of alertness?
    - Any evidence of intoxication?
    - Any distracting injury?
  - No to ALL
    - C-spine cleared
    - Remove collar
    - Document in chart (Must be APP or resident having rotated >1 month on trauma to independently apply NEXUS)
  - Yes to ANY
    - CT C-spine without contrast
      - Fracture Present?
        - Yes - Maintain C-collar
          - Convert to Aspen or Miami J
          - Work up rest of spine with appropriate imaging
          - Spine consult
        - No - Altered Mental Status
          - Yes - Continue C-collar until patient examinable
            OR
            - MRI C-spine
            OR
            - If high quality CT spine and read/reviewed by Radiology attending, is NORMAL (no fracture, No DJD, etc) consider removal
          - No - Positive Pain
            - Continue C-collar until outpatient evaluation
              OR
              - Adequate Flex/Ex films.
              - Spine recommendations

- Neurologic deficit?
  - Yes - STAT MRI C-spine
  - No - Spine recommendations

- Clear Collar
- Negative Pain
- Continue C-collar until patient examinable