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?
- 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
  - Neurologic deficit?
    - Yes
      - STAT MRI C-spine
      - ICU Admission
      - Complete spine immobilization
      - Implement SCI protocols and ordersets (refer to SCI Handbook)
      - Spine recommendations
      - MAP push 5 days
    - No
      - Spine recommendations
    - 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)
- No
  - Altered Mental Status
    - Yes
      - Spine recommendations
    - No
      - Positive Pain
        - Continue C-collar until outpatient evaluation
          - OR
            - Adequate Flex/Ex films.
            - Remove C-collar if negative
          - If still has pain need with neuro symptoms order MRI C-spine. Remove C-collar if negative

- Negative Pain
- Clear Collar

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