

## Pediatric Trauma

### Skin Care Needs of the Pediatric Patient Wearing a Cervical Collar

**Purpose:** Skin breakdown is complication associated with cervical collar application. Skin care needs for all pediatric patient with cervical collars will be addressed through assessment of skin and risk factors for potential breakdown in skin integrity.

#### Cervical Collar Application

Please reference Lippincott Procedures Cervical Collar Application, Pediatric on **CONNECT**.

#### Cervical Collar Skin Care:

- Position patient supine with arms to the side in proper alignment
- Utilize 2 or more persons to control patient movement - one to maintain c-spine alignment and another to clean and assess skin
  - Additional persons may be used based on patient movement or size
- Instruct the patient to not move head or neck if patient is able to follow instructions

#### Front of Neck

- Release Velcro straps and remove front part of collar
- Remove and replace foam pads if needed
  - New pads and/or collar can be obtained through supply chain if soiled
- Clean hard plastic pieces of collar if needed
- Observe neck and skin for any sign of breakdown or irritation
- Wash neck with mild soap and water
- Dry thoroughly
- Replace collar front and Velcro straps

#### Back of Neck

- Supporting the neck, logroll the patient to the side position
- Remove the back of the collar
- Replace pads as needed
- Clean neck with mild soap and water
- Dry thoroughly
- Replace the back of collar and Velcro straps
- Logroll the patient back to supine position
- Assess collar for proper fit per Lippincott Procedures

For any noted breakdown in skin:

- Notify primary service
- Apply dressing per Wound Care Team or MD recommendation
- **Document** breakdown in Epic

#### **DOCUMENT skin care in Epic**

For questions or bedside assistance, please contact Pediatric Trauma Coordinator:

Krista Flesher at 75109 (office) or 132174 (portable)

Reference:

Nash, J. (2015, October). Cervical Collar: Skin Care Needs of the Patient Wearing a Cervical Collar. Retrieved February 10, 2023, from [https://www.mnhospitals.org/Portals/0/Documents/patientsafety/PU\\_Med\\_dev/Sample\\_Policy\\_Cervical\\_Collar.pdf](https://www.mnhospitals.org/Portals/0/Documents/patientsafety/PU_Med_dev/Sample_Policy_Cervical_Collar.pdf)