

MHealth Fairview System Adult Cervical Spine Clearance Guideline

Patient presents with mechanism of injury concerning for possible cervical spine injury

Cervical Collar placed until able to be cleared

Adult C-Spine to be cleared by ED MD, Trauma or Neurosurgery/ Ortho Spine only

CT Scan is preferred method for clearance, particularly for elderly

Cervical Clearance Screen
Does the patient have?

- Posterior midline cervical tenderness
- Focal neurological deficit
- Acute mental status change
- Suspected intoxication/drug use
- Pain that may distract from cervical pain
- Provider concern based on mechanism

NO
Clear C-Spine

YES

Perform C-Spine CT

If negative, consider distracting injuries

If Positive

Intoxicated or acute AMS:
Observe until clinically sober or mental status clears

Off-midline tenderness:
Alert/Sober and Pain Controlled

ED MD able to clear clinically

Midline Cervical Tenderness:
Phone consult with neurosurgery or Flex/ed Films to clear
If unable, can send home in Aspen Collar and f/u with Neurosurgery

Obtunded patient from TBI

Clear C-Spine

or consider

Transfer to UMMC or Southdale or Trauma and Neurosurgery Consult for clearance

To transfer patient to UMMC or Southdale, call 612-672-7575