

# MHealth Fairview System Adult Thoracic and Lumbar Spine Clearance Guideline



Patient presents with mechanism of injury concerning for possible Thoracic or Lumbar spine injury

**Thoracic and Lumbar Clearance Screen**

- Patients who fall greater than 15 feet
- Patients in motor vehicle accidents with high speed deceleration, ejection, or other high energy mechanism
- Patients who complain of pain and/or tenderness in the thoracic and/or lumbar spinal area
- Patients with any other spinal column or cord injury
- Patients with known history of chronic spinal column disease
- Any comatose patient
- Patients with neurological deficits referable to the thoracic or lumbar/sacral spinal cord or nerve roots

NO

Clear T and L Spine

YES

Positive Neurological Symptoms *referrable* to spine injury

Altered Mental Status and return to normal mentation is not anticipated for 24-48 hours

- Awake, alert, clinically sober, no neurologic symptoms
- Positive Back Pain

CT of T & L spines or recon of CAP CT

If Positive

Plain films anteroposterior and lateral views of T & L spines (or recon from CAP CT)

Transfer to UMMC or Southdale or Trauma and Neurosurgery/Ortho Spine Consult

If Negative

Clear T and L Spine

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