

Michigan TRAUMA AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPINAL INJURY ASSESSMENT

Initial Date: 5/31/2012 Revised Date: 05/22/2023

Spinal Injury Assessment

- 1. Follow General Pre-hospital Care-Treatment Protocol.
- 2. Assess the mechanism of injury.
 - A. Negative mechanism does not need a spine injury clinical assessment.
 - B. Patients with mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury shall have a spine injury clinical assessment performed.
- Clinical criteria are used as the basis for assessment. If any of the clinical criteria are
 present or if the assessment cannot be completed, the patient has a positive spine
 injury assessment.
- 4. If the mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury exists, the following clinical criteria are assessed:
 - A. Altered mental status
 - B. Use of intoxicants
 - C. A painful injury that distracts the patient from assessment of the spine.
 - D. Motor and/or sensory deficit
 - E. Spine pain and/or tenderness
- 5. If any of the clinical criteria are present the patient has a positive spine injury assessment. If none of the clinical criteria are present the patient has a negative spine injury assessment.
- 6. Patients with a positive spine injury assessment should have spinal precautions maintained during movement and transport. Refer to **Spinal Precautions-Procedure Protocol**.
- Patients over the age of 65 with evidence of a head strike mechanism of injury will have a rigid extrication collar applied even if the spinal injury clinical assessment is negative.

Protocol Source/References: NASEMSO Clinical Guidelines

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