

LEGEND

Decision Point	<div></div>
Selection	<div></div>
Diagnostic Step	<div></div>
Action Item	<div></div>

# C-Spine Clearance for the Obtunded Patient

**Major blunt mechanism  
GCS < 14 or non-compliant**

**CT C-Spine Foramen magnum  
to T1**

## TRANSFER OFF SPINE BOARD

- C-spine precautions, with neutral spine
- Replace hard extrication collar with vista collar
- 3-person turn/log roll
- HOB < 30°

**Normal CT C-Spine or  
with mild degenerative changes  
\*Reviewed by Neuroradiologist\***

No

**CONSULT SPINE  
MRI if suspect neurologic deficit**

Yes

**Moving all 4 limbs  
with equal strength?**

Or unable to obtain

No

**MRI**

**Normal MRI**

No

**CONSULT SPINE  
Maintain C-Spine precaution**

Yes

**Trauma or ICU Staff  
CLEAR C-SPINE  
(based on final MRI report)**

**C-Spine  
cleared**

## Major Blunt Mechanism

- Fall > 6 m (20 ft)
- MVC:
  - > 65 km/h
  - Major auto deformity/intrusion into passenger compartment
  - rollover/ejection
- Pedestrian/Bicyclist struck:
  - With impact > 30 km/h / thrown
- Motorcyclist/Motorized recreational vehicles
- Major Industrial Accident
- Explosion/other blunt + Burn
- Assault
- Axial load to head