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.
3. 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.**
7. 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

MCA Name: Detroit East
MCA Board Approval Date: 11/21/2023
MCA Implementation Date: 2/1/2024
MDHHS Approval: 5/22/23 MDHHS Reviewed 2023