C-Spine Clearance
The following algorithms are used to guide the C-spine clearance of Pediatric Trauma patients:

C-Spine Clearance- Reliable Patient

C-Spine Clearance- Reliable
C-Collar to remain in place until diagnostic workup complete

1. Is there altered sensorium or other painful injury causing distraction?
2. Is there an inability to communicate or localize pain?

NO

YES

Child complaining of neck pain tenderness or paraesthesia?

NO

YES

Is there pain or paraesthesia with collar off during passive range of motion?

YES, replace collar

NO

Obtain lateral C spine x-ray

Lateral films(x2) not Adequate as per Radiology

Swimmers view for Clearance C6-T1

Injury noted? NO

YES

Obtain Neurosurgery consult

Injury noted? YES Treatment per neurosurgery

NO

C Spine cleared

Remove collar

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C Spine Clearance- Unreliable Patient

C Spine Clearance- Unreliable Patient
C-collar to remain in place until diagnostic workup complete

1. Is there altered sensorium or other painful injury causing distraction?
2. Is there an inability to communicate or localize pain?

   YES
   NO

   Obtain lateral C spine Film
   Go to RELIABLE algorithm

   Film adequate, per radiology?
   NO
   YES

   Films (x2) not adequate per Radiology
   Obtain CT scan

   Injury noted?
   YES
   NO

   Obtain Neurosurgery Consult
   Collar remains in place
   Head of Bed not to be elevated > 45 degrees

   Is the child awake & alert within 24 hours?

   YES
   NO

   Go to reliable algorithm
   Flexion/extension Films or MRI in selected patients (within 48 hours)

   Treatment per neurosurgery

   YES Injury noted? NO
   NO

   Remove collar

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