

# TRAUMA PATIENT

assess conscious state

**AWAKE &  
COOPERATIVE**

**DECREASED or  
UNCONSCIOUS**

**Apply Canadian C  
spine or NEXUS criteria  
if appropriate and  
trained**

**Consider C-collar &  
rigid board only if  
required to facilitate  
extrication**

Patients who pass this stage will not require imaging of the C-spine, but may require transport for treatment of other injuries

Extricate where possible onto a vac mat with addition of pelvic binder if clinically indicated.

Splint to skin. Minimal handling.  
Use scoop stretcher rather than log roll on/off extrication board

**if clinical suspicion of  
isolated C-spine injury,  
allow patient to  
determine 'position of  
comfort' & offer soft  
collar**

**determine available EMS  
skill mix & transport  
options**

**BASIC EMS ONLY**  
Consider airway  
protection, transport in  
left lateral position  
without hard collar

**ADVANCED EMS**  
Consider intubation if necessary  
Transport protected airway supine  
Immobilise entire spine with vac mat  
Head blocks or soft collar to minimise  
subsequent head movement in transit