






***C-SPINE Clearance***

Legend	
	EMR
	EMT
	Intermediate
	Paramedic
	Medical Control

**Critical Thinking:**  
A focal neurologic deficit is a problem with nerve, spinal cord, or brain function. For neuro deficits from a spinal cord injury, look for weakness or numbness in the extremities distal to the injury.



<b>EMR</b>	<p><b>To determine if a patient should be immobilized or not, use the NEXUS C-Spine Criteria. Place a c-collar on the patient if he/she exhibits any one of the following:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focal neurological deficit</li> <li>2. Midline bony spinal tenderness</li> <li>3. Altered level of consciousness</li> <li>4. Intoxication from any source</li> <li>5. A significant distracting injury</li> <li>6. Age over 65 with any complaints of neck pain</li> </ol> <p>All trauma patients with suspected c-spine injury should be carefully moved to the cot with the head raised no more than 30°. A patient may be extricated with the long board, if needed, then log rolled to the cot for transport. <b>Contact medical control for any questions.</b></p>	<b>EMR</b>
<b>EMT</b>		<b>EMT</b>
<b>I</b>		<b>I</b>
<b>P</b>		<b>P</b>

**Note:**  
Placing a c-collar on a patient and allowing them to carefully self-extrication with guidance while keeping the neck causes the least amount of movement in the c-spine. Backboards should only be used for extrication for patients complaining of back pain, or those who have a neuro deficit or altered mental status.