



McLean County Area EMS System

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Field Spinal Motion Restriction Clearance Protocol (ILS, ALS only)

Indications:

Any patient that experiences a mechanism of injury that creates the potential for a spine injury.

Contraindications:

Any patient less than 12 years old or any patient 65 years old or greater, patients with chronic neck or back pain, any patient exhibiting signs of shock.

Protocol:

All patients will be assessed by the following criteria. Only those patients who meet ALL requirements as NO or NORMAL may be cleared.

1. Does the patient have a GCS less than 15?
2. Does the patient complain of neck or back pain?
3. Is there tenderness, swelling or deformity noted when the complete spine is palpated?
4. Is there a distracting injury or distracting pain?
5. Are there signs/symptoms of alcohol or drug abuse present?

Spinal motion restriction (SMR) may be withheld only if the answer to all of the five preceding questions is NO. If the answer to any of the preceding questions is yes the patient should be placed in full SMR. If the patient meets the criteria to withhold SMR, EMS providers may still elect to provide SMR.

Examples of distracting injuries: long bone fractures, rib fractures, pelvic fractures, abdominal pain, large contusion, avulsion to the face or scalp, partial thickness burns greater than 10% TBSA or full thickness burns, any significantly painful injury.

Examples of signs/symptoms of alcohol or drug abuse: GCS less than 15, slurred speech, dilated pupils, flushed skin, unsteady gate, irregular behavior, presence of paraphernalia