

# PECARN C-Spine Imaging Rule

for evaluation of children after blunt trauma

- GCS 3-8 or AVPU = U
- Abnormal airway, breathing, or circulation
- Focal neurologic deficits

Consider  
CT

NO

- GCS 9-14, AVPU = V or P or other signs of AMS
- Self-reported neck pain or neck tenderness on examination
- Substantial\* head or torso injury

Consider  
X-Rays

NO

- No risk factors

Consider  
Clinical  
Clearance

**\*Substantial injuries defined as warranting inpatient observation or surgical intervention. (Examples of substantial injuries for each body region: skull fracture; pneumothorax; signs of solid organ injury; thoracic, lumbar, or sacral spine fracture; pelvic fracture)**



## PECARN

Pediatric Emergency Care  
Applied Research Network

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