



# PREHOSPITAL SPINAL CARD

Cut Along Line

## SELECTIVE SPINE IMMOBILISATION CRITERIA

### **Positive 'Mechanism Of Injury' with one or more of the following:**

- Unconscious or altered conscious state
- Drug or alcohol affected
- Significant distracting injury or event
- History of bone disease
- Age >65 yrs or <5 yrs
- Communication difficulty
- Spinal column pain or bony tenderness
- Neurological signs & symptoms

**If patient meets the above criteria,  
fully immobilise the whole spine with a  
Cervical Collar & padded Long Spine Board**

## NEUROLOGICAL SIGNS & SYMPTOMS

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| • Bradycardia             | • Paralysis          |
| • Hypotension             | • Heaviness          |
| • Respiratory difficulty  | • Numbness           |
| • Diaphragmatic breathing | • Priapism           |
| • Respiratory arrest      | • Spinal column pain |
| • Heat loss               | • Deformity          |

## NEUROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

### Motor Assessment



Patient's hands squeeze  
Officer's hands



Patient pushes feet  
against Officer's hands

### Sensory Assessment



Compare soft touch of  
forehead to posterior hands



Compare soft touch of  
forehead to under knees

Cut Along Line

## Instructions For Use

- To assemble card, fold card in half, cut out along black line and laminate.
- This card as a guide only. If a conflict with your Organisation exists, follow your Organisations guidelines in preference to this card. RAPP Australia Pty Ltd accepts no liability for any use of this card. The users accepts all responsibility and liability for it's use.
- This card should only be used in conjunction with the manual 'A **Photographic Guide To Prehospital Spinal Care**'. This manual is free to download from the web page [www.neann.com/psc.pdf](http://www.neann.com/psc.pdf)

## Selective Spine Immobilisation Studies

- Multicenter prospective validation of prehospital clinical spinal clearance criteria  
Domeier  
J of Trauma 53(October): 744-750, 2002.
- Paramedic use of a spinal injury clearance algorithm reduces spinal immobilization in the out-of-hospital setting  
Muhr, et al  
Prehosp Emerg Care 1999 Jan-Mar; 3(1):1-6
- Can an Out-of-Hospital Cervical Spine Clearance Protocol Identify IAll Patients With Injuries? An Argument for Selective Immobilisation  
Stroh, et al  
Annals Of Emerg Med June 2001: 606
- Spinal Cord Injury without Radiographic Abnormality: Results of the National Emergency X-Radiography Utilization Study in Blunt Cervical Trauma  
Hendey, et al  
Journal Of Trauma 53(1):1-4, 2002
- Prospective performance assessment of an out-of-hospital protocol for selective spine immobilization using clinical spine clearance criteria.  
Domeier, et al  
Ann Emerg Med. 2005 Aug; 46(2):123-31
- The Canadian C spine rule for radiography in alert & stable trauma patients  
Stiell, et al  
JAMA 286(15):1803-1817, 2001
- The Canadian C-Spine rule vs the NEXUS low risk criteria in patients with trauma  
Stiell, et al  
New Eng Med 349:2510-2518 Dec 2003

## Australian Recommendations For Full Spine Immobilisation

- Towards the Prevention of Spinal Cord Injury  
Australian Menzies Foundation Technical Report 1987
- Review Of Trauma And Emergency Services Final Report 1999  
Acute Health Services Department Of Human Services Victoria Australia
- Management of Acute Neurotrauma In Rural And Remote Locations  
Royal Australasian College Of Surgeons 2000