

## The MDFR Spinal Injury Assessment

The following steps will be taken when you are assessing a patient with a complaint of neck and / or back pain associated with a traumatic incident.

<b>1</b>	The patient must be greater than or equal to 9 years of age, calm and cooperative with stable vital signs	If the patient is < 9 years of age, uncooperative, or you cannot get a reliable history of the incident, spinal motion restriction is indicated.
<b>2</b>	Assess the GCS. The patient should NOT have altered mental status	If the patient has altered mental status with suspected spinal injury, spinal motion restriction is indicated.
<b>3</b>	Assess for signs of drug or alcohol intoxication. Determine if the history of the incident includes intoxication.	If the patient has signs of drug or alcohol intoxication with suspected spinal injury, spinal motion restriction is indicated.
<b>4</b>	Palpate the midline neck and back over the spine	If the patient has tenderness over the area palpated or if you feel deformity, spinal motion restriction is indicated.
<b>5</b>	Have the patient move his/her extremities. Have the patient move the head up and down, then rotate left and right.	If the patient does not have an acceptable range of motion, or experiences severe neck pain upon movement of the head, spinal motion restriction is indicated.

If the presentation of the patient indicates a spinal cord injury, spinal motion restriction is indicated.