



- 9914107 – Injury - Spinal Cord

Key Documentation Elements

- Patient complaint of neck or spine pain
- Spinal tenderness
- Mental status/GCS
- Neurologic examination
- Evidence of intoxication
- Documentation of multiple trauma
- Documentation of mechanism of injury
- Document patient capacity with:
 - All barriers to patient care in the NEMSIS element “Barriers to Patient Care” (eHistory.01—required of all software systems)
 - Exam fields for Mental Status and Neurological Assessment
 - Vitals for Level of Responsiveness and [Glasgow Coma Scale](#)
 - Alcohol and drug use indicators
- Patient age
- Patient who is underage and not emancipated: legal guardian name, contact, and relationship

Performance Measures

- Percentage of patients with high-risk mechanisms of injury and/or signs or symptoms of cervical spine injury who are placed in a cervical collar
- Percentage of patients without known trauma who have a cervical immobilization device placed (higher percentage creates a negative aspect of care)
- Percentage of trauma patients who are transported on a long backboard (target is a low percentage)
- Percentage of patients with a cervical spinal cord injury or unstable cervical fracture who did not receive cervical collar
- **National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA) Performance Measures** (for additional information, see www.nemsqa.org)
 - *Pediatrics—03: Documentation of Estimated Weight in Kilograms*
 - *Trauma—01: Pain Assessment of Injured Patients*

References

1. Anders JF, Adelgais K, Hoyle JD Jr., Olsen C, Jaffe DM, Leonard JC. Comparison of outcomes for children with cervical spine injury based on destination hospital from scene of injury. *Acad Emerg Med*. 2014;21(1):55–64
2. Armstrong BP, Simpson HK, Crouch R, Deakin CD. Prehospital clearance of the cervical spine: does it need to be a pain in the neck? *Emerg Med J*. 2007;24(7):501–3
3. Barkana Y, Stein M, Scope A, Maor R, Abramovich Y, Friedman Z, Knoller N. Prehospital stabilization of the cervical spine for penetrating injuries of the neck—is it necessary? *Injury*. 2007;31(5):305–9
4. Ben-Galim P, Dreiangel N, Mattox KL, Reitman CA, Kalantar SB, Hipp JA. Extrication collars can result in abnormal separation between vertebrae in the presence of a dissociative injury. *J Trauma*. 2010;69(2):447–50
5. Benner JP, Brauning G, Green M, Caldwell W, Borloz MP, Brady WJ. Disagreement between