Canadian C-Spine Rule

For all alert (GCS = 15) and stable trauma patients where cervical spine injury is a concern

1. Any High-Risk Factor Which Mandates Radiography?
   - Age ≥ 65 years
   - Dangerous mechanism*
   - Paresthesias in extremities

2. Any Low-Risk Factor Which Allows Safe Assessment of Range of Motion?
   - Simple rearend MVC**
   - Sitting position in ED
   - Ambulatory at any time
   - Delayed onset of neck pain***
   - Absence of midline c-spine tenderness

3. Able to Actively Rotate Neck?
   - 45° left and right

   Able

   No Radiography

   Unable

   Radiography

*Dangerous Mechanism
- fall from elevation ≥ 3 feet/5 stairs
- axial load to head, i.e. diving
- MVC high speed (> 100 km/hr), rollover, ejection
- motorized recreational vehicles
- bicycle struck or collision

**Simple Rearend MVC Excludes
- pushed into oncoming traffic
- hit by bus/large truck
- rollover
- hit by high speed vehicle

***Delayed
- i.e. not immediate onset of neck pain