Thoracic and Lumbar Spine Algorithm 0—17.99 years

Is patient GCS < 14? 
Back pain/tenderness? 
Step-off on vertebral palpation? 
Neurologic deficits concerning for spine cord injury? 
Known cervical spine injury?

No to ALL Questions

T/L spine in cleared

YES to ANY Question

Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis CT

Chest/Abdomen/Pelvis CT NOT indicated

Order Thoracic & Lumbar Plain Films

ABNORMAL 
Consult spine service

Further imaging guidance from spine specialist

NORMAL

RE-Examine Patient:
• Paresthesia or neurological deficit concerning for spine injury.

ABNORMAL 
Consult spine service

Further imaging guidance from spine specialist

Special Considerations:
* Intoxicated with ETOH and other drugs? If mechanism exists obtain imaging. If no MOI exists and PE findings, consider re-assessment when no longer intoxicated

Approved: 12/14
Revised: