

## CMG 18 – SPINAL INJURIES

(Revised: June 2015)



Conduct **spinal immobilisation assessment** (as per flowchart). If immobilisation is indicated, continue as follows:  
(maintain an high index of suspicion in elderly patients, even with a seemingly innocuous mechanism of injury)

ICP	Instruct the patient to <b>refrain from moving head</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• avoid flexion of the neck and rotation of the head</li><li>• all other movements must be minimised</li><li>• maintain head in the neutral position</li></ul>	AP
ICP	<b>Oxygen therapy</b> if signs of hypoxia – IPPV if hypoventilating	AP
ICP	<b>Posture supine and immobilise spine</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• cervical collar</li><li>• extricate with spine board or Kendrick Extrication Device</li><li>• lift with spine board or scoop stretcher</li><li>• DO NOT transport patient on the spine board or scoop stretcher</li><li>• <i>immobilisation of patients with isolated penetrating trauma is not recommended</i></li></ul>	AP
ICP	Cervical collar may be removed to provide airway management. <i>Provide manual in-line stabilisation.</i>	AP
ICP	<b>IV fluid</b> as required (as per CMG 14)	AP
ICP	Consider <b>antiemetic</b> for all immobilised patients	AP
ICP	If transport is prolonged, ensure <b>pressure area care</b> is attended	AP