The Canadian C-Spine Rule
For 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

   No

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

   No
   - Unable
   - Radiography

   Yes

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

   Able
   - No Radiography

   Unable

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

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