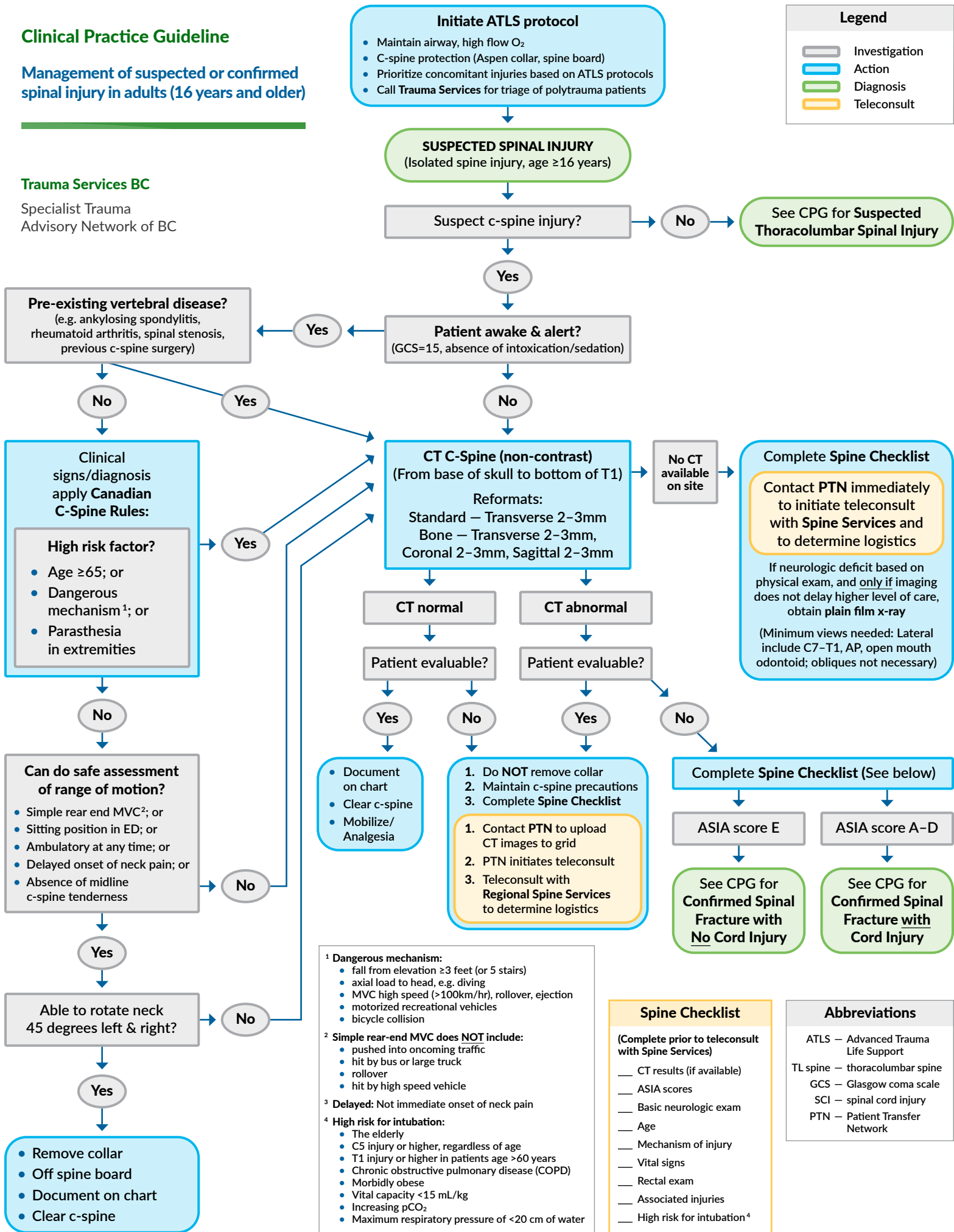
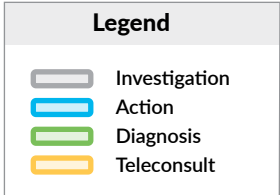


# Clinical Practice Guideline

## Management of suspected or confirmed spinal injury in adults (16 years and older)

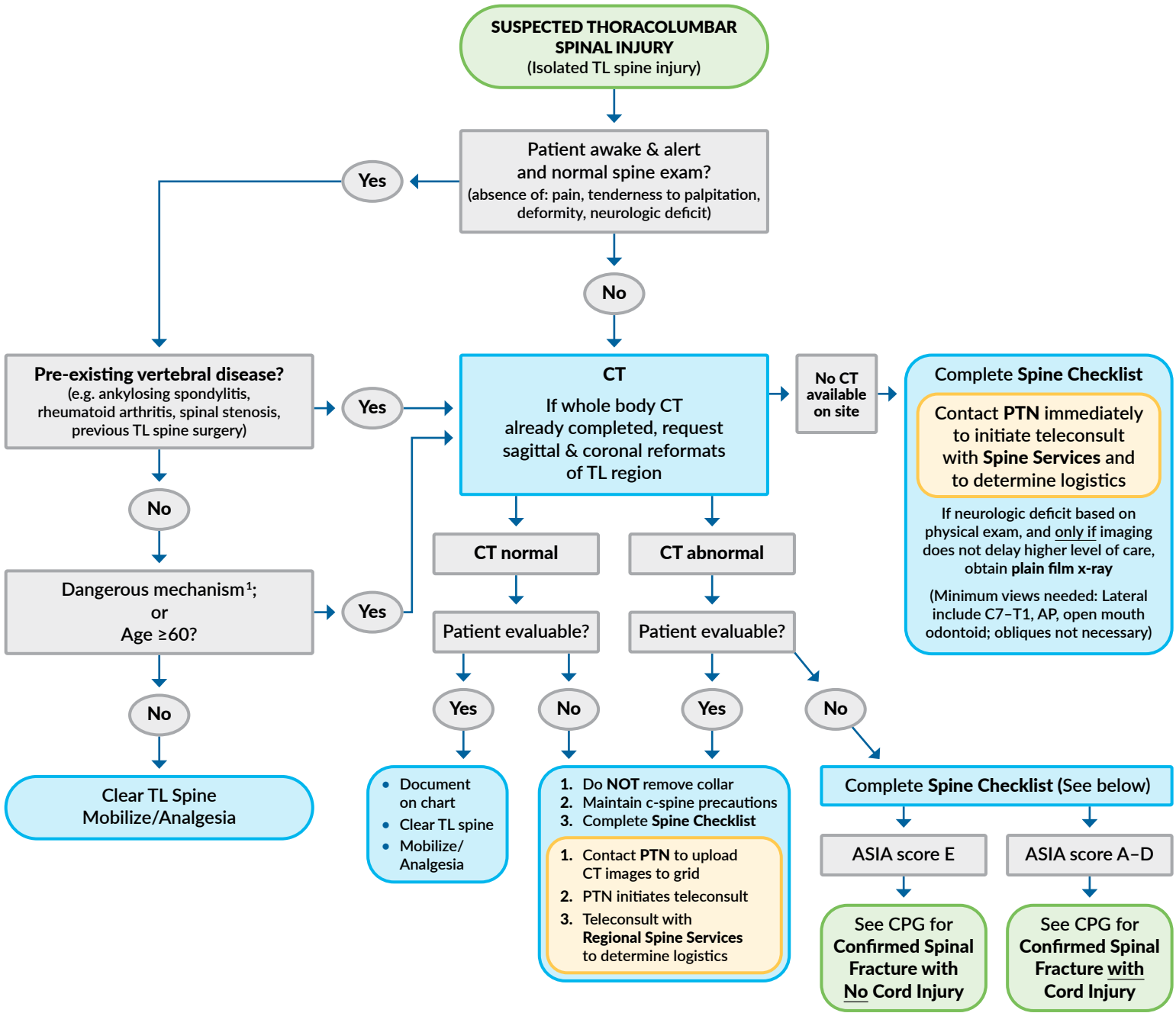
### Trauma Services BC

Specialist Trauma  
Advisory Network of BC



Clinical Practice Guideline

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<sup>1</sup> Dangerous mechanism:

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

<sup>2</sup> High risk for intubation:

- The elderly
- C5 injury or higher, regardless of age
- T1 injury or higher in patients age >60 years
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- Morbidly obese
- Vital capacity <15 mL/kg
- Increasing pCO<sub>2</sub>
- Maximum respiratory pressure of <20 cm of water

Spine Checklist

(Complete prior to teleconsult with Spine Services)

- \_\_\_ CT results (if available)
- \_\_\_ ASIA scores
- \_\_\_ Basic neurologic exam
- \_\_\_ Age
- \_\_\_ Mechanism of injury
- \_\_\_ Vital signs
- \_\_\_ Rectal exam
- \_\_\_ Associated injuries
- \_\_\_ High risk for intubation<sup>2</sup>

Abbreviations

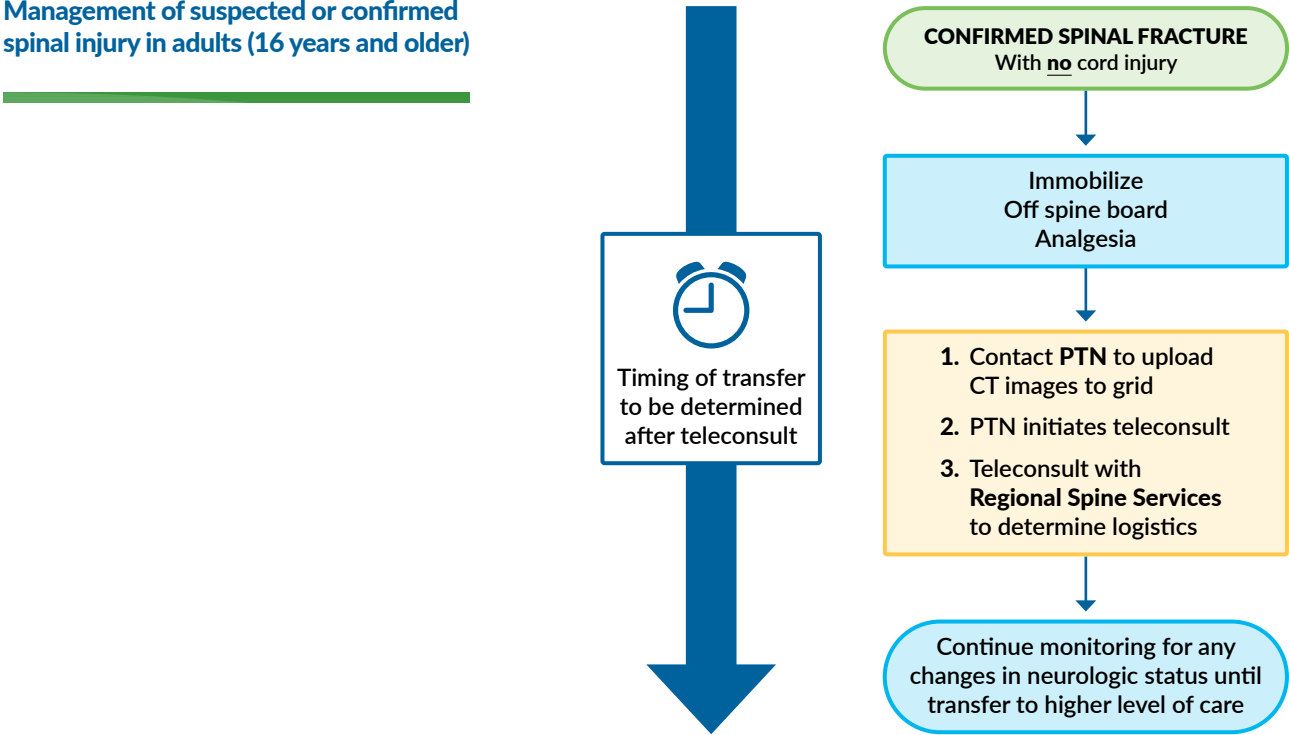
TL spine — thoracolumbar spine  
SCI — spinal cord injury  
PTN — Patient Transfer Network

Legend

- Investigation
- Action
- Diagnosis
- Teleconsult

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**Note**

<sup>1</sup>**High risk for intubation:**

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