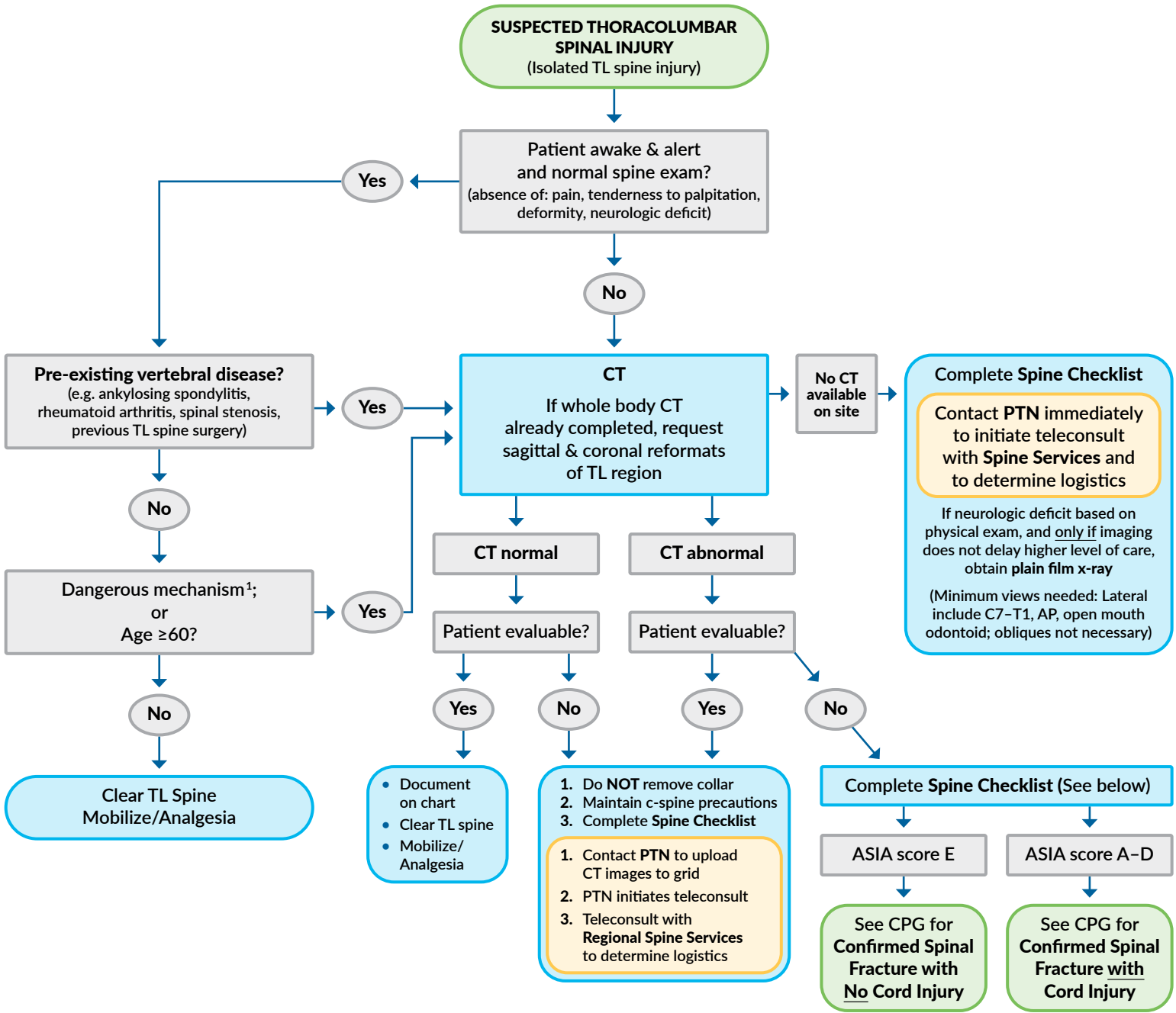


Clinical Practice Guideline

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



<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