Title: BACKBOARD REMOVAL – TRAUMA

Policy Statement: Patients presenting to the Emergency Department (ED) immobilized on a backboard will be assessed and removed from the backboard as soon as possible to promote patient comfort and decrease secondary injury.

Procedure: Protocol

Our goal is to remove patients from backboard within thirty minutes of patients arrival to Emergency Department (ED) Cervical Spine immobilization will remain in place until cleared by a Licensed Independent Practitioner (LIP). Cervical spine immobilization is defined as a cervical collar.

I. Level I and II Trauma Patients
   A. Primary survey performed by Trauma Team upon arrival of patient
      1. Patient will be placed on soft bed.
      2. Collar to remain in place until cleared by LIP.
      3. Patient will remain in supine position until cleared by LIP.
      4. Bed rest until further evaluation by LIP.
      5. If an order is given by the LIP for a patient to remain on a backboard, document accordingly in nursing note.

III. Level III and Non-Leveled Patients
   A. Primary Assessment by Nurse- If LIP is not immediately available
      1. The nurse will remove patient from backboard with appropriate log roll procedure and place patient supine on a soft bed with the head of the bed flat.
      2. Patient will remain in supine position on bed rest until assessment by LIP.

Related Policies: None
Related Forms: None
Approval Process: ED Medical Director

References: Evidence base research

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