

Additionally paramedics have the right to speak directly to the Base Hospital Physician, if available, for any call.

CERVICAL SPINE IMMOBILIZATION:

While cervical immobilization is a key element in the patient care management of many injured persons, there exists clear indicators for its application. The Cervical Spine Clearance Algorithm card was developed pursuant to clinical standards that have been in use for many years by physicians, and validated through numerous clinical studies.

It is important to keep in mind that errors in the decision to not apply c-spine precautions can have disastrous results, and if any question remains about the necessity of c-spine precautions after applying the algorithm, you must error in favor of the patient's best interests and apply it.

Proper c-spine precaution includes all of the following:

- ❖ a rigid cervical collar
- ❖ lightweight head blocks
- ❖ adequate taping to restrict movement
- ❖ a long board which provides for the application of at least three straps
- ❖ minimum of three straps (traditional "X" trunk placement with a third strap across the lower thigh area just above the knees). Currently in this EMS system, "Spider" straps are utilized, which exceeds this minimum.

OXYGEN ADMINISTRATION:

The administration of oxygen is one of the most important interventions available to EMS personnel, and its role in improving compromised patients should not be overlooked. This section is included to provide the basic

