

# Pre-hospital changes to spinal care management

St John WA has updated clinical practice regarding semi-rigid cervical collars and spinal management. Using the NEXUS clinical decision rule and individual factors, our officers will undertake a risk assessment and categorise patients as **Low, Medium** or **High Risk**.



<b>Low risk</b>		<b>Medium risk</b>		<b>High risk</b>	
NEXUS clinical decision rule	Cleared	NEXUS clinical decision rule	Not cleared	NEXUS clinical decision rule	Not cleared
Neurological symptoms	None	Neurological symptoms	None	Neurological symptoms	Possible neurological symptoms or is unconscious
<b>Risk factor</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Risk factor</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Risk factor</b>	<b>High</b>
No device used		Lanyard, self-splinting and spinal precautions used		Semi-rigid collar and spinal immobilisation used	

These changes have been implemented as a result of a recent quality improvement project using expert opinion and current best practice. We respect the right of other institutions to follow their own processes and procedures. If you have any further questions or wish to discuss this further please contact [clinicalgovernanceadmin@stjohnwa.com.au](mailto:clinicalgovernanceadmin@stjohnwa.com.au)