Canadian C-Spine Rule

For alert (Glasgow coma scale = 15) and stable trauma patients where cervical spine injury is a concern

1. Any High-Risk Factor Which Mandates Radiography?
   - Age ≥ 65 years
   - Dangerous mechanism *
   - Paresthesias in extremities

   **Rule Not Applicable if:**
   - Non-trauma cases
   - Glasgow coma Scale < 15
   - Unstable vital signs
   - Age < 16 years
   - Acute paralysis
   - Known vertebral disease
   - Previous C-spine surgery
   - Pregnant

   **Simple Rear-end MVC Excludes**
   - Pushed into oncoming traffic
   - Hit by bus or large truck
   - Rollover
   - Hit by high speed vehicle

   *Dangerous Mechanism*
   - Fall from elevation ≥ 3 feet or 5 stairs
   - Axial load to head, e.g. diving
   - MVC high speed (> 100 km/hr), rollover, ejection
   - Motorized recreational vehicles
   - Bicycle struck or collision

2. Any Low-Risk Factor Which Allows Safe Assessment of Range of Motion?
   - Simple rear-end motor vehicle collision (MVC) **
   - Sitting position in emergency department
   - Ambulatory at any time
   - Delayed onset of neck pain ***
   - Absence of midline c-spine tenderness

   **Simple Rear-end MVC Excludes**
   - Pushed into oncoming traffic
   - Hit by bus or large truck
   - Rollover
   - Hit by high speed vehicle

   ***Delayed***
   - Not immediate onset of neck pain

3. Able to Actively Rotate Neck?
   - 45 ° left and right

   **Unable**

   **Able**

   No Radiography

   Radiography