BLS Protocols Skills Assessment

Spinal Clearance Evaluation

Candidate: _____ Date: _____

Evaluator: _____

☐ Test ☐ Retest
☐ Pass ☐ Fail

Candidate Actions	***Points Possible***	***Points Awarded***
Takes or verbalizes standard precautions (BSI)	1	
Directs assistant to maintain manual stabilization in a neutral in-line position	1	
Assess for NSAIDS ☐ (N) Neurological Deficits ☐ (I) Impairment ☐ (S) Significant Mechanism ☐ (D) Distracting Injury ☐ (A) Altered LOC ☐ (S) Significant Age (<5 or >65)	6 *	
Palpates each vertebra evaluating the patient for pain, tenderness, or deformity	1 *	
Requests the patient to slowly rotate their head 45 degrees to one side	1 *	
Requests the patient to slowly rotate their head 45 degrees to the other side	1 *	
Requests the patient to slowly flex their head down	1 *	
Requests the patient to slowly extend their head upward	1 *	
Candidate Determines level of Spinal Motion Restriction Required • No SMR *(patient passes all criteria for spinal clearance evaluation)* • Full spinal immobilization *(evidence of spinal cord injury, trauma with unconsciousness, or multi-system trauma with GCS <15)* • Collar only SMR *(patient fails spinal clearance evaluation but does not require full spinal immobilization)*	1 *	
Total points possible	14	
****Denotes Critical failure if not performed***		

Critical Criteria:

☐ Failed to immediately direct manual stabilization of the head
☐ Released, or ordered release of, manual stabilization prior to clearing c-spine
☐ Did not use NSAIDS criteria to rule out spinal clearance
☐ Failed to palpate each vertebra
☐ Failed to request the patient to rotate their head to both sides
☐ Failed to request the patient to flex/extend their head down and upward
☐ Failed to stop assessment and assume SMR when patient c/o pain
☐ Candidate was unable to determine appropriate level of SMR
☐ Provided incorrect or unsafe treatment
☐ Did not obtain 13 or more points

Evaluator Signature: _____

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Revised January 2015