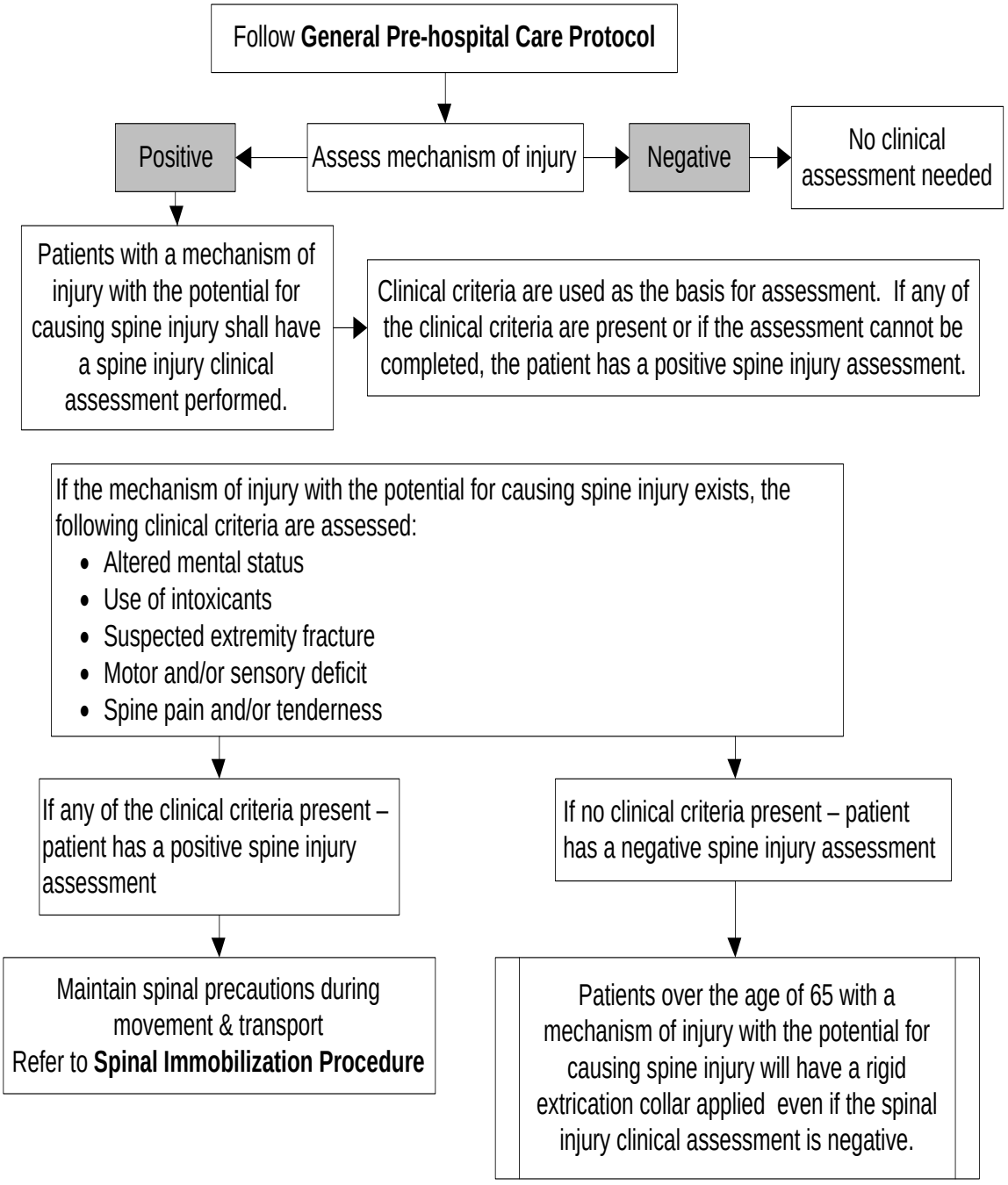
Spinal Injury Assessment

Pre-Medical Control

MFR/EMT/SPECIALIST/PARAMEDIC

1. Follow **General Pre-hospital Care protocol**.
2. Assess the mechanism of injury.
3. Negative mechanism does not need a spine injury clinical assessment
4. Patients with mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury shall have a spine injury clinical assessment performed.
5. Clinical criteria are used as the basis for assessment. If any of the clinical criteria are present or if the assessment cannot be completed, the patient has a positive spine injury assessment.
6. If the mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury exists, the following clinical criteria are assessed:
   A. Altered mental status
   B. Use of intoxicants
   C. Suspected extremity fracture
   D. Motor and/or sensory deficit
   E. Spine pain and/or tenderness
7. If any of the clinical criteria are present the patient has a positive spine injury assessment. If none of the clinical criteria are present the patient has a negative spine injury assessment.
8. Patients with a positive spine injury assessment should have spinal precautions maintained during movement and transport. Refer to **Spinal Immobilization Procedure.**
9. Patients over the age of 65 with a mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury will have a rigid extrication collar applied even if the spinal injury clinical assessment is negative.


Follow **General Pre-hospital Care Protocol**
Assess mechanism of injury
Positive
Negative
No clinical assessment needed
Patients with a mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury shall have a spine injury clinical assessment performed.
Clinical criteria are used as the basis for assessment. If any of the clinical criteria are present or if the assessment cannot be completed, the patient has a positive spine injury assessment.
If the mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury exists, the following clinical criteria are assessed:
• Altered mental status
• Use of intoxicants
• Suspected extremity fracture
• Motor and/or sensory deficit
• Spine pain and/or tenderness
If any of the clinical criteria present – patient has a positive spine injury assessment
If no clinical criteria present – patient has a negative spine injury assessment
Maintain spinal precautions during movement & transport
Refer to **Spinal Immobilization Procedure**
Patients over the age of 65 with a mechanism of injury with the potential for causing spine injury will have a rigid extrication collar applied even if the spinal injury clinical assessment is negative.