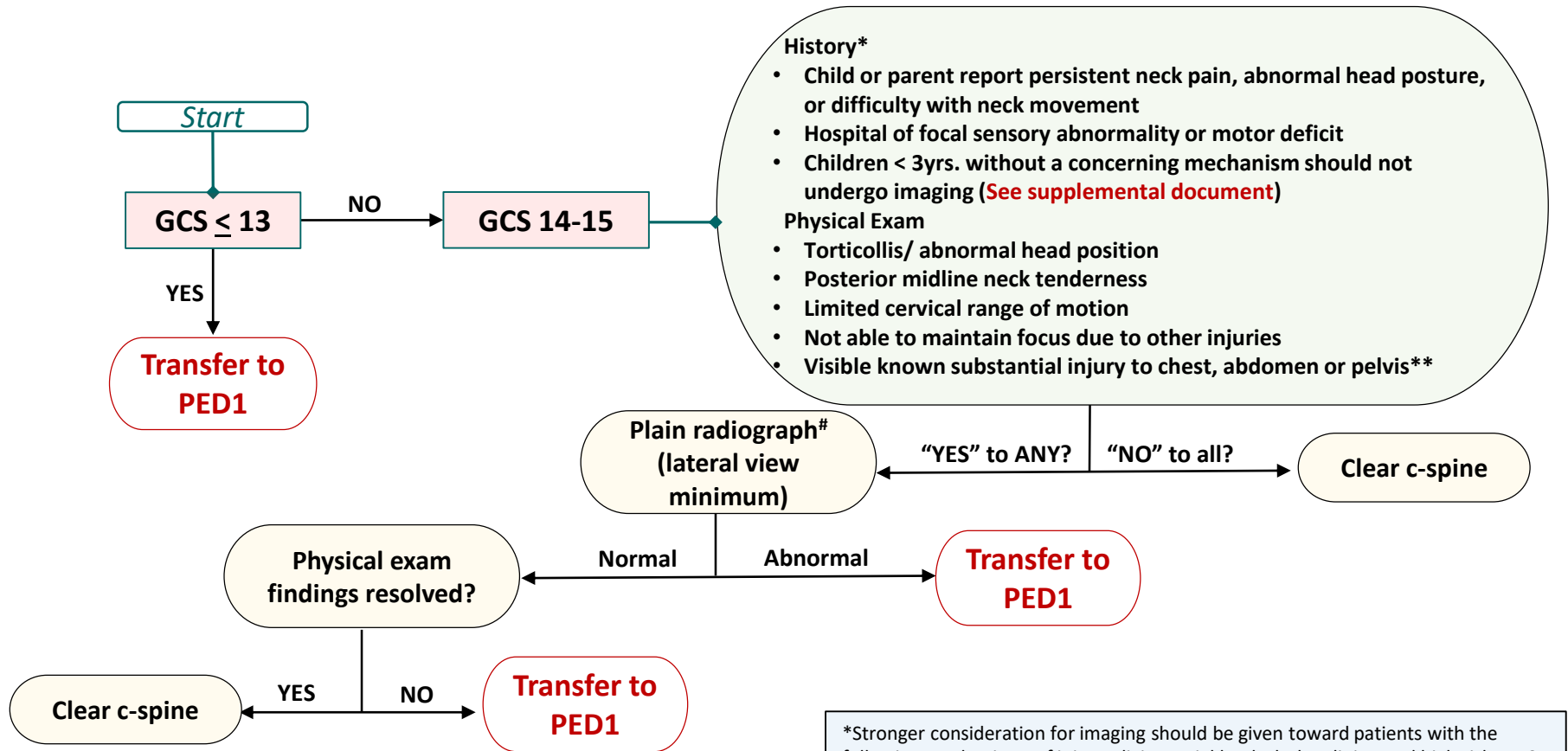


2022 Pediatric Cervical Spine Clinical Guideline

Blunt Mechanism



*Stronger consideration for imaging should be given toward patients with the following mechanisms of injury: diving, axial load, clothes-lining and high risk MVC (head-on collision, rollover, ejected from the vehicle, death in the same crash, or speed > 55 mph)

** Substantial injury is defined as an observable injury that is life-threatening, warrants surgical intervention or warrants inpatient observation

All imaging should be read by an attending physician

This algorithm does not replace clinical judgment and is not intended to be prescriptive for all patients.

C-Spine Clearance: Who Doesn't Need Imaging?

No Imaging Needed

- GCS 14 or 15
- Not intoxicated
- < 3 years & no high-risk mechanism*



- No neurologic deficit
- No midline tenderness
- No distracting injuries
- No unexplained hypotension

*Exceptions Based on Mechanism (<3 years)



Fall > 10 feet

Motor Vehicle Collision



Non-Accidental Trauma

Special Populations

may require further imaging

- Persistent pain & normal x-rays
- Advanced imaging vs. c-collar?



- Obtunded or intubated & normal CT
- Risk of pressure sore w/c-collar
- MRI or remove c-collar?

AVOID over-imaging for c-spine clearance



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