

**Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
At Egleston**

**Emergency Department
Policy and Procedure**

Type: <i>Removing patients from long boards</i>	Subject Number:
Section: Trauma	Effective Date:
Approval:	Revised Date:

I. Policy:

Guidelines for removing a patient from a long board will be followed.

The long board serves two purposes in the care of trauma victims.

- 1) It provides a secure means of transporting the patient to the hospital.
- 2) It enables restraint of the ***uncooperative*** patient in cases where movement may further complicate an underlying spinal injury.

Every effort should be made to remove cooperative and stable patients from the long board as soon as possible.

II. Procedure:

Upon arrival to the ED patients on long boards will be assessed by the ED attending (or their designee) to determine whether long board immobilization needs to be maintained.

Patients meeting one of the following criteria, may be safely taken off the long board

- (1) Mechanism, history and physical exam does not raise the possibility of c-spine injury
AND
the primary and secondary survey has been completed (or observed) by the attending and does not reveal evidence of spinal injury.
- (2) Mechanism, history or physical exam is suspicious for c-spine injury
BUT
the lateral view of the C-Spine series was interpreted as normal by a radiologist or attending
AND
the patient is considered by the attending to be old enough and cooperative enough to remain supine without the restraint of the board AND.