Emergency department paediatric major trauma imaging decision tool

Clinical judgment to limit CT to the body areas where assessment needed.
Follow the principles of As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) radiation exposure.

- If meets NICE head injury criteria
  - CT head

- CT head and meets NICE c-spine (CS) imaging criteria
  - CT c-spine

- Does not meet NICE criteria, but clinical suspicion of CS injury
  - C-spine X-rays*

- As part of primary survey
  - Chest X-ray

- If penetrating trauma or abnormality on CXR
  - CT chest

- If multisystem trauma or presence of:
  - Lap belt injury
  - Abdominal wall ecchymosis
  - Abdominal tenderness
  - Abdominal distension
  - Persistent hypovolaemia
  - PR or NG blood
  - CT abdomen pelvis

* If abnormality or inadequate view on CS X-ray, consider MRI (CT if MRI unavailable)