

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS**

**Cervical Radiculopathy/Single Nerve Root Entrapment Surgical Treatment Guideline**  
Effective July 1, 1993

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**I. Conservative Care:**

- A. 6-8 weeks minimum - for example:
1. physical therapy
  2. non-steroid anti-inflammatory agents
  3. cervical traction

**AND**

**II. Clinical Findings:**

- A. Subjective
1. Sensory symptoms in a dermatomal distribution (could include: radiating pain, paraesthesia, tingling, burning, or numbness)

**AND**

- B. Objective
1. Dermatomal sensory deficit; **or**
  2. Motor deficit; **or**
  3. Reflex changes; **or**
  4. Positive EMG

**AND**

- C. Imaging
1. Abnormal test results that correlate with the level of nerve root involvement consistent with subjective and objective findings. Tests could include CT scan, MRI, or Myelogram.

**III. Special Instructions:**

- A. Cases to be referred to a physician advisor:
1. Repeat surgery at same level
  2. Request for surgery at the C 3-4 level
  3. Requests for surgery with signs and symptoms indicating myelopathy
- B. When requesting authorization for decompression of multiple level nerve roots, each level is subject to the criteria.