BACK PAIN

TRANSFER CRITERIA
Back pain without significant trauma (i.e., strain)
Normal x-ray (if obtained)
Inability to ambulate because of pain
Inability to control pain by po medications
Normal neurological exam
No bowel or bladder control problems
R/O metastatic disease if appropriate
No paraspinal mass

EXCLUSION CRITERIA
Back pain with significant trauma
Abnormal x-rays (if obtained) (burst fracture, spine canal involvement)
Abnormal neurological exam (motor)
Bowel or bladder control problems
Metastatic disease
Fever

OBSERVATION UNIT INTERVENTIONS
Serial exams
Parenteral analgesics
Physical therapy (assessment)
Consultation as needed – PMR, Ortho, continuing care nurse

DISPOSITION CRITERIA

Home -
Ability to tolerate pain on po medication
Ability to ambulate and care for self at home or continuing care arrangements made
No change in neurologic exam

Hospital -
Inability to tolerate pain on po medications
Inability to ambulate or care for self at home
Change in neurological exam