DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST

Head injury: applying the CT decision rules

A step-by-step application of NICE head injury criteria to decide whether an adult or child needs a CT head scan, and how urgently.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 3 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
  Do not attribute a reduced GCS to alcohol or drugs until a head injury has been excluded.

- [ ] DURING
  If the patient is anticoagulated and has intracranial bleeding, start reversal without waiting for the neurosurgical opinion.
  Follow the anticoagulation reversal protocol.

- [ ] AFTER
  Re-assess urgently and consider repeat CT if GCS falls, severe or increasing headache develops, vomiting persists, or new neurological signs appear.

The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement.