Cervical Spine Criteria

AP Axial

- Spinous processes aligned to midline of cervical bodies
- Gonion and mastoid tips are equidistant from cervical vertebrae
- Open intervertebral disc spaces
- Vertebral bodies seen without distortion
- C-3 to C7 are seen in their entirety, as well as surrounding soft tissues
- Long axis of cervical spine is aligned to long axis of IR

Odontoid (Dens)

- Lateral masses of atlas seen equidistant to from the dens
- Spinous process of the axis is aligned with the midline of the body of the axis
- Mandibular rami are visualized equidistant from lateral masses
- Upper incisors and base of skull are seen superior to the dens
- Open atlantoaxial joint
- Dens at centre of exposure field

AP Axial Oblique

- 2nd through 7th intervertebral foramina is open
- LPO- right pedicles are shown in profile and left pedicles are aligned to with the anterior bodies
- RPO- left pedicles are shown in profile and right pedicles are aligned with the anterior vertebral bodies
- Posterior arch of the atlas and vertebral foramen are seen
- Intervertebral disc spaces are open
- Cervical bodies are seen as individual structures and uniform in shape
- C1-T1 and surrounding soft tissues are seen within exposure field

Lateral

- Zygapophyseal joints of each vertebra are superimposed
- Mandibular rami superimposed
- Spinous processes in profile
- Intervertebral joint spaces are open
- Bodies of c1 and C2 are seen without superimposition of the mandible
- Posterior arch of C1 and spinous process of C2 seen without superimposition of the occipital bone (base of skull)
- Sella turcica to T1 and surrounding soft tissues are included in the exposure field

Thoracic Spine Criteria

AP

- Spinous processes aligned with middle of vertebral bodies
- SC joints equidistant from vertebral column
- Intervertebral disc spaces open
- C7-L1 demonstrated

Lateral

- Intervertebral foramina are demonstrated
- Pedicles in profile
- Posterior surfaces of vertebral bodies superimposed
- No more than 1.25 cm of space seen between posterior ribs
- Open intervertebral joint spaces
- C7 to L1 are included in the exposure field
- T-3-4 to L1 well demonstrated

Swimmer's

- Zygapophyseal joints are superimposed
- Intervertebral disc spaces open
- T1 is in centre of exposure field
- C5 to T3 included in the exposure field

Lumbar Spine Criteria

AP

- Spinous processes lined to center of vertebral bodies
- Intervertebral joint spaces open
- Long axis of spine aligned to long axis of IR
- T12 and sacroiliac joints demonstrated

Lateral

- Intervertebral foramina open
- Intervertebral joint spaces open

- Lumbar spine in neutral position
- T12-S1-2
- Long axis of spine aligned to long axis of IR
- No tilt or rotation
- Superimposition of posterior surfaces of vertebral bodies (no rotation)
- Superimposition of superior surfaces and inferior surfaces of vertebral bodies (no tilt)

Obliques AP

- Superior and inferior articular processes in profile
- Open zygapophyseal joints
- Pedicles (eye) seen halfway between the midpoint and lateral border of the vertebral bodies
- T12 to bottom of SI joints included in the light field

L5-S1

- L5-S1 intervertebral joint space open
- L5 pedicles superimposed
- Pelvic alae superimposed
- L5-S1 in center of exposure field

Sacrum Criteria

AP Axial

- 1-5th sacral segments seen without foreshortening
- Symphysis pubis not superimposed over sacrum
- Median sacral crest and coccyx aligned with symphysis pubis

Lateral

- Median sacral crest in profile
- Pelvic alae nearly superimposed
- L5-S1 disc space open
- Greater sciatic notches superimposed
- Includes L5-S1 to coccyx

SI Joints Criteria

AP Axial

- SI joints demonstrated without foreshortening
- Median sacral crest in middle of exposure field
- Sacral ala equal
- Superimposition of 5th sacral segment over symphysis pubis

AP Oblique

- Open SI joint
- No superimposition of ilium and sacrum
- Long axis of the SI joint is aligned to long axis of IR
- SI joint of interest is in the centre of the exposure field