



You have two options since Bill failed your focused spine assessment due to cervical pain and tenderness and is in a hostile (cold) environment where hypothermia is a real possibility:

Option 1: If you can keep Bill still *and warm* in a supine/or sitting position wearing all his clothes, you can wait for the ski patrol to arrive. Ideally, the patrollers will use a full-body vacuum splint or heavily pad the toboggan with sleeping pads and bags. This option will ensure good spinal care during his evacuation and is safe as long as you can keep Bill warm.

Option 2: If you believe your friend will become hypothermic waiting for the patrol to arrive, consider starting a slow and careful self-evacuation towards help. Ideally the patrollers will meet you part way down and complete the evacuation with your friend in a full, hypothermia package, a vacuum splint, and in a toboggan. If you choose this route, there is some risk—the exact amount is unknown—that your friend has an unstable cervical spine and that another fall or unsafe movement may cause a permanent spinal cord injury and quadriplegia. You are balancing this risk with the likelihood that hypothermia will set in as you wait for outside rescue.

