

Surgical Wound Classification Table

Classification	Description	Examples of Procedures
<p>Class I: Clean</p> <p>Risk of infection: less than or equal to 2%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uninfected operative wound where respiratory, GI, genital, and urinary tracts aren't entered • Wounds are primarily closed, and a drain (if needed) is connected to a closed system • No inflammation is encountered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploratory laparotomy • Eye surgery • Hernia repair • Mastectomy • Thyroidectomy • Total hip or knee replacement • Vascular/cardiovascular procedures
<p>Class II: Clean/Contaminated</p> <p>Risk of infection: 5-15%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operative wound that enters the respiratory, GI, genital, or urinary tract under controlled conditions • No major break in sterile technique • No spillage • No acute inflammation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cesarean section • Cholecystectomy (chronic inflammation) • Colectomy • Colostomy reversal • Incidental or routine appendectomy • Small bowel resection • Transurethral resection of prostate (TURP) • Vaginal hysterectomy
<p>Class III: Contaminated</p> <p>Risk of infection: greater than 15%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open, fresh, accidental wounds • Operations with major breaks in sterile technique (e.g., open cardiac massage) • Gross spillage from the GI tract • Acute, non-purulent inflammation is encountered • Necrotic tissue without evidence of purulent drainage (e.g., dry gangrene) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bile spillage during cholecystectomy • Bowel resection for infarcted or necrotic bowel • Cholecystectomy or appendectomy for acute inflammation
<p>Class IV: Dirty/Infected</p> <p>Risk of infection: greater than 30%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old traumatic wounds with retained devitalized tissue • Perforated viscera • Presence of purulence or abscess 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incision and drainage (I&D) of abscess • Open fracture with prolonged time in the field before treatment • Perforated bowel repair • Perforated gastric ulcer • Ruptured appendectomy

Adopted from: Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Surveillance Protocol: Saskatchewan.