

SURGICAL WOUND CLASSIFICATION POCKET CARD

CLASS I/CLEAN

- Uninfected surgical wound without inflammation encountered
- Respiratory, alimentary, genital, or urinary tracts are not entered
- Primarily closed, or drained with closed system
- Incisions that follow nonpenetrating, blunt trauma

CLASS II/CLEAN-CONTAMINATED

- A surgical wound involving the respiratory, alimentary, genital, or urinary tracts
- Entered under controlled conditions and without unusual contamination.
- Procedures such as biliary tract, appendix, vagina, and oropharynx are included in this category
- No evidence of infection is encountered
- No major break in technique occurs

CLASS III/CONTAMINATED

- Open, fresh accidental wounds
- Major breaks in sterility during surgery
- Spillage from the GI tract
- Incisions with nonpurulent inflammation

CLASS IV/DIRTY-INFECTED

- Old traumatic wounds
- Existing clinical infection
- Perforated viscera

Notes

- Always confirm wound class with surgeon at the end of the surgery.
- Circulator's documentation of wound class should match surgeon's dictation.

AORN's Surgical Wound Classification Tree can be accessed at:

www.aorn.org/docs/default-source/aorn/essentials/sterile-technique/files/aorn-surgical-wound-classification-decision-tree.pdf