

## Appendix 1 Classification of surgical wounds (19)

According to the American College of Surgeons, there are four types of surgical wounds based on the wound's level of contamination:

- ❖ Class I: clean surgical wounds show no signs of inflammation and do not involve the respiratory, gastrointestinal or genitourinary tracts.
- ❖ Class II: clean-contaminated wounds are clean wounds with a higher risk of infection such as those involving the gastrointestinal, respiratory or genitourinary tracts, as long as the surgery is uncomplicated.
- ❖ Class III: contaminated wounds are created when an outside object comes in contact with the wound. This could be a bullet, knife blade or other pointy object. Or the contamination could be caused by large amounts of spillage from the GI tract into the wound.
- ❖ Class IV: dirty-infected surgical wounds include those with a foreign object lodged in the wound (such as a bullet or other debris). This class also includes traumatic wounds from a dirty source where the treatment was delayed, infected surgical wounds or any wound that has been exposed to pus or fecal matter.

## References

19. American College of Surgeons. Wound Home Skills Kit: Surgical Wounds. 2018.