

Gustilo Classification

- Specificity for open fractures of the forearm, femur, and lower leg will require provider documentation to specify Gustilo Type I through Type IIIC:
 - **TYPE I:** The wound is smaller than 1 cm, clean, and generally caused by a fracture fragment that pierces the skin.
 - **TYPE II:** The wound is longer than 1 cm, not contaminated, and without major soft tissue damage or defect. This is also a low energy injury.
 - **TYPE III:** The wound is longer than 1 cm., with significant soft tissue disruption. The mechanism often involves high-energy trauma, resulting in a severely unstable fracture with varying degrees of fragmentation.
 - **IIIA:** The wound has sufficient soft tissue to cover the bone without the need for local or distant flap coverage.
 - **IIIB:** Disruption of the soft tissue is extensive, such that local or distant flap coverage is necessary to cover the bone. The wound may be contaminated, and serial irrigation and debridement procedures are necessary to ensure a clean surgical wound.
 - **IIIC:** Any open fracture associated with an arterial injury that requires repair is considered IIIC. Involvement of a vascular surgeon is generally required.
- NOTE: Even though the fracture may be described using the terminology found in the Gustilo classification the provider must document the type of Gustilo fracture present; coder CANNOT code based on the fracture description.