

EmONC functionality cascade

The steps below describe the process for analyzing and presenting the performance of EmONC signal functions along with the indicators measuring the key elements of readiness (i.e., tracer commodities, health workforce adequate for caseload, and emergency referral readiness) in order to identify gaps and bottlenecks in functionality of the EmONC system.

Step 1: Compile sub-national, national or network data, by facility, in a spreadsheet (e.g., Excel) using column headings such as those in Table 1 below.

In order to be considered “well-functioning,” a facility’s EmONC performance classification must match its designation and it must have met the requirements for tracer commodities ([Equipment drugs & supplies](#)), adequate human resources ([Health workforce adequate for caseload](#)), and essential emergency referral readiness ([Emergency referral readiness](#)) for its level of designation. If any of those criteria are not met, the facility is considered “not yet well-functioning.” It may be that a facility is classified as performing at a lower level of EmONC than its designation (e.g., designated CEmONC facility but performing BEmONC). For the purposes of this analysis, those facilities should be included in the final column (at the right) as “not yet well-functioning EmONC”:

Table 1. Elements of EmONC functionality; hypothetical example

Quarter 1 - 2024						
Facility name	EmONC designation	EmONC performance classification	Tracer commodities	Adequate human resources (HR) for caseload	Essential emergency referral readiness	Performing EmONC + tracer commodities + adequate HR + essential emergency readiness = “well-functioning”
Facility A	BEmONC	BEmONC	Met	Met	Met	Well-functioning EmONC
Facility B	BEmONC	Missing 4 signal functions	Not met	Met	Not met	Not yet well-functioning EmONC
Facility C	CEmONC	CEmONC	Met	Not met	Met	Not yet well-functioning EmONC
Facility D	CEmONC	CEmONC	Met	Not met	Met	Not yet well-functioning EmONC
Facility E	CEmONC	CEmONC	Met	Met	Met	Well-functioning EmONC
Facility F	IEmONC	IEmONC	Met	Met	Met	Well-functioning EmONC

Step 2: Aggregate the facility-level data into a table such as Table 2 below and present the data in a chart (“the cascade”) such as Figure 1 below.

Table 2. Summary of EmONC functionality; hypothetical example showing the number of facilities that are performing EmONC under adequate conditions

Quarter 1 - 2024	No. facilities	No. Performing all EmONC signal functions	No. with all tracer commodities	No. with adequate human resources (HR) for caseload	No. with emergency referral readiness	Performing EmONC + Tracer commodities + Adequate HR + Emergency referral readiness = “well-functioning”
Designated Basic EmONC	50	20	7	12	8	5
Designated Comprehensive EmONC	45	30	15	20	22	15
Designated Intensive EmONC	5	4	4	4	5	4
Total	100	54	26	36	35	24

Figure 1. Summary of EmONC functionality; hypothetical example showing the number of facilities that are performing EmONC under adequate conditions

