



NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ROY COOPER • Governor
KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary
MARK PAYNE • Director, Division of Health Service Regulation

VIA EMAIL ONLY

May 23, 2023

Tracey Carson, Vice President of Clinical Operations – UNC Health
Tracey.Carson@unchealth.unc.edu
Kim Meymandi, Senior Consultant, Ascendient
kimmeymandi@asendient.com

Exempt from Review – Replacement Equipment

Record #: 4199
Date of Request: May 11, 2023
Facility Name: UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield
FID #: 943290
Business Name: Johnston Memorial Hospital Corporation
Business #: 1052
Project Description: Temporarily replace a fixed MRI scanner with a mobile MRI scanner
County: Johnston

Dear Ms. Carson:

The Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section, Division of Health Service Regulation (Agency), determined that the above referenced project is exempt from certificate of need review in accordance with G.S. 131E-184(a)7. Therefore, you may proceed to acquire without a certificate of need the mobile MRI scanner to be furnished by Alliance Healthcare to temporarily replace the fixed MRI scanner while the unit is being upgraded. This determination is based on your representations that the temporary mobile MRI scanner will be removed and will not be used again in the State without first obtaining a certificate of need if one is required following completion of the upgrades to the fixed MRI scanner.

It should be noted that the Agency's position is based solely on the facts represented by you and that any change in facts as represented would require further consideration by this office and a separate determination. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature of Cynthia Bradford]

Cynthia Bradford, Project Analyst

[Handwritten signature of Micheala Mitchell]

Micheala Mitchell, Chief

cc: Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section, DHSR

NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE REGULATION
HEALTHCARE PLANNING AND CERTIFICATE OF NEED SECTION

LOCATION: 809 Ruggles Drive, Edgerton Building, Raleigh, NC 27603
MAILING ADDRESS: 809 Ruggles Drive, 2704 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2704
https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/ • TEL: 919-855-3873



May 5, 2023

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Cynthia Bradford, CON Project Analyst  
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation, NCDHHS  
2704 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704  
cynthia.bradford@dhhs.nc.gov

**RE: Notice for Exemption from CON Review for Temporary Replacement of MRI Scanner**  
**Facility: UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield**  
**FID #: 943290**

Dear Ms. Bradford:

The purpose of this letter is to provide prior written notice pursuant to NC General Statute § 131E-184(a)7 that UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield plans to use a mobile MRI scanner furnished by Alliance Healthcare (Alliance) for an interim period of approximately 2 weeks while the existing hospital based fixed MRI scanner (CON Project ID #J-6807-03) is being upgraded.

UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield currently operates a single MRI scanner to support a community hospital that serves Johnston County and beyond and requests use of the temporary unit in order to continue providing effective patient care. Once the upgrades to the existing MRI scanner have been complete, the Alliance mobile MRI will be taken off site and will not be used again at UNC Health-Smithfield.

The temporary mobile MRI scanner, (GE - 16 channel HDxT, SN: R2719) is comparable to the existing MRI currently in use at UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield and will be used for the same diagnostic purposes as the existing equipment. The temporary mobile MRI from Alliance will not be used to provide a new institutional health service.

Based on the information provided, UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield requests that the Agency provide a written response confirming that UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield may operate the temporary mobile MRI scanner furnished by Alliance without CON review. Should the Agency need additional information, please let us know as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tracey Carson".

Tracey Carson, MHA, BSN, RN  
Vice President of Clinical Operations

**From:** [Waller, Martha K](#)  
**To:** [Stancil, Tiffany C](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Exemption Request  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2023 7:57:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield Temporary MRI Exemption Request.pdf](#)

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Gm,

For you...

*Martha Waller*

Administrative Specialist 1

Division of Health Service Regulation, Certificate of Need Section North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

Main: 919-855-3873

Office: 919-855-3885

[martha.waller@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:martha.waller@dhhs.nc.gov)

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**From:** Kim Meymandi <KimMeymandi@ascendient.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2023 5:02 PM  
**To:** Bradford, Cynthia L <cynthia.bradford@dhhs.nc.gov>  
**Cc:** Waller, Martha K <martha.waller@dhhs.nc.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Exemption Request

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Hi Cindy and Martha,

Hope you've both had a great day.

On behalf of our client, UNC Health Johnston-Smithfield we are submitting the attached notice of exemption and look forward to your response.

Many thanks,

Kim

**Kim Meymandi | SENIOR CONSULTANT**

[kimmeymandi@ascendient.com](mailto:kimmeymandi@ascendient.com) | 919.226.1712 | [linkedin](#) | [www.ascendient.com](http://www.ascendient.com)



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