



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

2704 Mail Service Center ■ Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2704

Beverly Eaves Perdue, Governor
Lanier M. Cansler, Secretary

www.ncdhrs.gov/dhsr

Craig R. Smith, Section Chief
Phone: 919-855-3875
Fax: 919-733-8139

January 9, 2012

Tim Ludwig
Vice President of Ancillary Services
Carolina East Health System
Post Office Box 12157
New Bern, NC 28561

RE: Exempt from Review - Replacement Equipment / CarolinaEast Medical Center Replace One Siemens Magnetom Symphony 1.5T MRI Scanner with One Phillips Healthcare Ingenia Omega 3.0T MRI Scanner / Temporary Replacement of Existing MRI with Mobile MRI / Craven County

Dear Mr. Ludwig:

In response to your letter of December 16, 2011 the above referenced proposal is exempt from certificate of need review in accordance with N.C.G.S 131E-184(a)(7). Therefore, CarolinaEast Medical Center may proceed to temporarily acquire, without a certificate of need, one Sym 4, Siemens Symphony Maestro mobile (ID# 400-052541) MRI scanner. This determination is based on your representations that the existing unit will be removed from North Carolina and will not be used again in the State and will no longer be exempt from certificate of need law. Further, please be advised that as soon as the replacement equipment is acquired, you must provide the CON Section and the Medical Facilities Planning Section with the serial number of the new equipment to update inventory.

It should be noted that this 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 Agency and a separate determination. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

Jane Rhoe-Jones, Project Analyst

Craig R. Smith, Chief
Certificate of Need Section

c: Medical Facilities Planning, DHSR
Construction Section, DHSR



rhoe-jones, jane e

From: DeeDee Murphy [DeeDeeMurphy@healthplanningsource.com]
Sent: Friday, January 06, 2012 1:39 PM
To: rhoe-jones, jane e
Subject: RE: CarolinaEast Medical Center-Temporary Mobile MRI
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Due By: Monday, January 09, 2012 9:00 AM
Flag Status: Red
Attachments: Signed Temporary Mobile MRI Letter.pdf

Jane,

Thanks so much for letting me know. I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are enjoying the new year thus far!

Please find attached the letter I mentioned in my email below. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks!
DeeDee

Dorothy Higdon Murphy, JD, MPH
Senior Consultant
Health Planning Source, Inc.
324 Blackwell Street, Suite 1100
Durham, NC 27701
919.403.3300 ext. 1712
919.403.3302 fax
deedemurphy@healthplanningsource.com

From: rhoe-jones, jane e [mailto:jane.rhoe-jones@dhhs.nc.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2011 11:53 AM
To: DeeDee Murphy
Subject: RE: CarolinaEast Medical Center-Temporary Mobile MRI

DeeDee,

The letter approving the exemption request was scheduled to go out on Wednesday.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jane

From: DeeDee Murphy [mailto:DeeDeeMurphy@healthplanningsource.com]
Sent: Monday, December 19, 2011 10:43 AM
To: rhoe-jones, jane e
Cc: Daniel Carter
Subject: CarolinaEast Medical Center-Temporary Mobile MRI

Jane,

Thanks again for taking the time to meet with me last Thursday to discuss CarolinaEast Medical Center's (CEMC's) MRI Exemption Request.

Please find attached a related letter regarding CEMC's intent to temporarily replace its existing fixed MRI

1/9/2012

(referenced in the Exemption Request) with a mobile MRI unit while the existing fixed unit is removed from CEMC and the permanent fixed replacement is obtained and installed. Given that a permanent replacement MRI is expected to arrive a few weeks after receiving a response to the Exemption Request, CEMC does not expect the temporary mobile MRI to be on-site for more than a few weeks. At no time will CEMC operate more than two MRI scanners. Once the permanent replacement MRI is installed, the temporary mobile unit will be returned to the vendor as detailed in the attached letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Happy Holidays!

DeeDee

Dorothy Higdon Murphy, JD, MPH

Senior Consultant

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Home Care

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December 16, 2011

Mr. Craig Smith
Chief, Certificate of Need Section
Division of Health Service Regulation
2704 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Re: Temporarily replace an existing fixed Siemens Magnetom Symphony 1.5T MRI scanner with a mobile MRI scanner to serve CarolinaEast Medical Center at 2000 Neuse Blvd. in New Bern until the permanent replacement arrives

Dear Mr. Smith:

On December 15, 2011, CarolinaEast Medical Center (CEMC) submitted an exemption request for the replacement of one of its two existing fixed MRI units, the Siemens Magnetom Symphony 1.5T, serial number 3481. The permanent replacement MRI is expected to arrive a few weeks after receiving the response to the exemption letter from the CON Section. CEMC would like to request permission to temporarily replace its existing fixed MRI referenced above with a mobile MRI unit (a Sym 4, Siemens Symphony Maestro, functional identification number 400-052541). The mobile unit will be provided as a temporary replacement unit while the existing fixed unit is removed from CEMC and the permanent fixed replacement is obtained and installed. As noted previously, given that the permanent replacement MRI is expected to arrive a few weeks after receiving the exemption from the State, CEMC does not expect the temporary mobile MRI to be on-site for more than a few weeks (the exact dates of which are unknown pending a response from the Agency on CEMC's exemption letter). Once the permanent fixed replacement unit is installed, the temporary unit will be returned to the vendor.

Since CEMC has a CON for its existing fixed MRI scanner that is to be replaced, it is our understanding that CEMC could utilize temporary mobile equipment from a vendor (i.e. Alliance Imaging) until our replacement equipment can be installed. Please verify that we can temporarily park an existing vendor-owned mobile unit at CEMC on a temporary basis during such time as the existing fixed unit is removed and until the replacement unit is installed. Once CEMC's permanent fixed replacement magnet is installed, the temporary equipment would, of course, be returned to the vendor and at no time would CEMC operate more than two MRI scanners.

Please feel free to contact me at (252) 633-8999 to discuss this matter further.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Ludwig', written over a horizontal line.

Tim Ludwig
Vice President of Ancillary Services
CarolinaEast Health System