



**NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

**ROY COOPER • Governor**  
**MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary**  
**MARK PAYNE • Director, Division of Health Service Regulation**

March 19, 2020

Heidi Ambrose  
 1144 N. Road Street  
 Elizabeth City, NC 27909

**Exempt from Review**

**Record #:** 3244  
**Facility Name:** Sentara Albemarle Medical Center  
**FID #:** 952933  
**Business Name:** Sentara Albemarle Regional Medical Center, LLC  
**Business #:** 54  
**Project Description:** Temporary Use of Out-of-State Mobile CT Scanner to Replace Existing Fixed CT Scanner in Process of being Replaced and Relocated  
**County:** Pasquotank

Dear Ms. Ambrose:

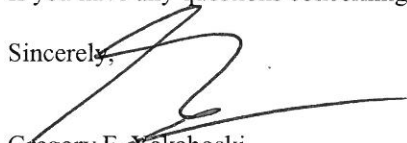
The Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section, Division of Health Service Regulation (Agency), determined that based on your letter of **March 17, 2020**, the above referenced proposal is exempt from certificate of need review in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. §131E-184(a)(7). Therefore, you may proceed to offer, develop or establish the above referenced project without a certificate of need.

However, you need to contact the Agency’s Construction and Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Sections to determine if they have any requirements for development of the proposed project.

It should be noted that this determination is binding only for the facts represented by you. Consequently, if changes are made in the project or in the facts provided in your correspondence referenced above, a new determination as to whether a certificate of need is required would need to be made by the Agency. Changes in a project include, but are not limited to: (1) increases in the capital cost; (2) acquisition of medical equipment not included in the original cost estimate; (3) modifications in the design of the project; (4) change in location; and (5) any increase in the number of square feet to be constructed.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

  
 Gregory E. Yakaboski  
 Project Analyst

  
 Martha J. Frisone  
 Chief

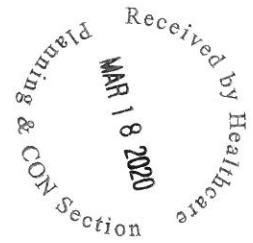
cc: Construction Section, DHSR  
 Acute and Home Care Licensure and Certification Section, DHSR

**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



S E N T A R A®



March 17, 2020

Ms. Martha J. Frisone, Chief  
Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section  
Division of Health Service Regulation  
2704 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

**RE: Filing of Exemption Notice for Sentara Albemarle Medical Center to Temporarily Use an Out-of-State Mobile CT Scanner as Replacement for Fixed CT Scanner; Withdrawal of Exemption Notice Dated March 13, 2020**

Dear Ms. Frisone:

Please accept this letter as notification of Sentara Albemarle Medical Center's (SAMC's) intent to utilize an out-of-state Sentara Healthcare<sup>1</sup>-owned CT scanner as an immediate temporary replacement for its existing CT scanner that is currently being relocated from Dare County and replaced pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 131E-184(a)(7).

SAMC currently operates a single CT scanner at SAMC, which is a community hospital that serves a multi-county region. SAMC also owns a CT scanner in Dare County, which it is currently in the process of replacing and relocating to the hospital in Pasquotank County, as the Agency was previously notified<sup>2</sup>. The project to install the replacement CT scanner at the hospital is currently underway; however, operation of the replacement CT scanner is still three to four months away. As I am sure you are aware, hospitals across the state of North Carolina – SAMC included – are working around the clock to accommodate patients impacted by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Given the respiratory symptoms that accompany COVID-19, a number of these patients require a CT scan. SAMC is doing its best to accommodate patients on its single operational CT scanner; however, once a potential or suspected COVID-19 patient is seen on the hospital's single operational CT scanner, SAMC must then follow rigorous infection prevention protocols established by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to properly disinfect the CT scanner before its next use. These required rigorous infection prevention protocols take approximately two hours to complete. During this two-hour period of time, there is no operational CT scanner to serve SAMC's patients, including emergency patients. SAMC is requesting temporary use of an out-of-state mobile CT scanner in order to ensure continuous availability of a CT scanner at the hospital. The mobile unit will be removed from the state when the widespread health

<sup>1</sup> Sentara Healthcare is the parent of SAMC.

<sup>2</sup> [https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/coneed/reviews/2017/dec/0116\\_pasquotank\\_samc.pdf](https://info.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/coneed/reviews/2017/dec/0116_pasquotank_samc.pdf)

situation is over or the project to replace the CT scanner from Dare County is complete, whichever is earlier. At no time with SAMC operate more than two CT scanners without obtaining any necessary regulatory approval from the Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section.

Based on the above facts, SAMC respectfully requests that the Agency provide a written response confirming that SAMC may operate the temporary mobile CT scanner as described without Certificate of Need review. If the Agency requires any additional information, please let us know as soon as possible.

In addition, as noted in the caption, this letter should serve as SAMC's official withdrawal of our previous exemption notice dated March 13, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi Ambrose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heidi" and last name "Ambrose" clearly distinguishable.

Heidi Ambrose  
Director, Patient Care Services

## Waller, Martha K

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**From:** Daniel Carter <DanielCarter@ascendient.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020 10:37 AM  
**To:** Yakaboski, Greg  
**Cc:** Wilson, Fatimah; Waller, Martha K  
**Subject:** [External] Exemption Notice for Temporary CT Replacement  
**Attachments:** SAMC CT Exemption Notice 3.17.20.pdf



**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify. Send all suspicious email as an attachment to [report.spam@nc.gov](mailto:report.spam@nc.gov)

Greg,

On behalf of my client, please see the attached exemption notice, which also withdraws the previous notice dated 3.13.20.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Be well.

Daniel

Daniel Carter | PARTNER  
[danielcarter@ascendient.com](mailto:danielcarter@ascendient.com) | 919.226.1705 | [LinkedIn](#) | [www.ascendient.com](http://www.ascendient.com)



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