



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**

November 6, 2024

Tina Hair Hinshaw  
Tina.hinshaw@akumin.com

**Exempt from Review – Replacement Equipment**

**Record #:** 4613  
**Date of Request:** October 9, 2024  
**Business Name:** Alliance Healthcare Services, Inc.  
**Business #:** 60  
**Project Description:** Temporarily replace a mobile MRI scanner  
**County:** Wake

Dear Tina Hinshaw:

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 SIG 273 mobile MRI scanner to replace the SIG 89 mobile MRI scanner. This determination is based on your representations that the existing unit will be sold or otherwise disposed of and will not be used again in the State without first obtaining a certificate of need if one is required.

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,

Crystal Kearney  
Project Analyst

Micheala Mitchell  
Chief

**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

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY / AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER



October 9, 2024

Mr. Mike McKillip, CON Analyst  
Ms. Micheala Mitchell, Chief  
Health Planning and Certificate of Need Section  
2704 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

RE: Akumin - Written Notice for Exemption from CON Review for the Temporary Replacement of MRI Scanner SIG 89

Dear Mr. McKillip and Ms. Mitchell:

I am writing regarding the need to temporarily replace MRI scanner SIG 89 such that maintenance and repairs can be completed. Please accept this notice of exemption to temporarily replace SIG 89 with SIG 273, VIN# 1S9FA482X311825911 which is an existing mobile MRI scanner owned by Alliance and will be utilized as the interim temporary MRI for this scanner. When SIG 273 is no longer needed to serve as a temporary replacement for SIG 89, it will be removed from North Carolina.

The legacy Alliance MRI SIG 89 is a scanner that has properly been reported in the 2023 NC MRI Equipment Inventory and serves:

- Wake Forest Outpatient Imaging Greensboro
- Wake Forest Winston Salem
- Raleigh Radiology Knightdale

This letter provides justification and written notice regarding the replacement equipment in accordance with NCGS 131 E-184. Akumin also provides documentation that the equipment conforms to the Certificate of Need Laws and Administrative rules: GS 131E-184(a) (7) Exemptions from review to provide replacement equipment 10A NCAC 14C.0303 Replacement Equipment Administrative Rules.

#### Overview

This existing MRI scanner requires temporary replacement due to:

- Maintenance and repairs of the trailer which houses Signa 89. Repairs are anticipated to take 3-4 weeks.

#### Compliance Documentation

Compliance with G.S. 131E-176 (22a) Replacement Equipment Definition is evident because the temporary replacement scanner has a fair market value of \$350,000 to \$400,000 which is far less than the \$2,000,000 threshold.

The replacement MRI equipment will be used for the same diagnostic purposes as the existing equipment. In addition, Alliance is providing written notice to the Department in accordance with G.S. 131E-184 (a) (7) Exemption from Review to provide replacement equipment.

#### Applicability and Conformance with Administrative Rule 10A NCAC 14C.0303 Replacement Equipment

Alliance Healthcare Services plans to use an existing mobile MRI as a temporary replacement. No equipment will be purchased. The temporary replacement equipment conforms to the rules as follows:

##### 10A NCAC 14C .0303 REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT

(a) This Rule defines the terms used in the definition of "replacement equipment" set forth in G.S. 131E-176(22a).

Alliance Healthcare Services has reviewed this rule definition.

(b) "Currently in use" means that the equipment to be replaced has been used by the person requesting the exemption at least 10 times to provide a health service during the 12 months prior to the date the written notice required by G.S. 131E-184(a) is submitted to the CON Section.

Alliance Healthcare Services confirms that Signa 89 meets the definition of "currently in use" because the MRI scanner provides service during the previous 12 months prior to the date of this written notice.



(c) Replacement equipment is not "comparable" if: (1) the replacement equipment to be acquired is capable of providing a health service that the equipment to be replaced cannot provide; or (2) the equipment to be replaced was acquired less than 12 months prior to the date the written notice required by G.S. 131E-184(a) is submitted to the CON Section and it was refurbished or reconditioned when it was acquired by the person requesting the exemption.

The replacement MRI scanner is comparable to the equipment being replaced because the temporary replacement equipment will be used to acquire the same types of MRI images and data. Alliance Healthcare Services certifies that the replacement mobile MRI equipment will be used for the same diagnostic purposes as the existing MRI unit.

The existing equipment, SIG 89, will be temporarily replaced by SIG 273, which will be removed from North Carolina once repairs to SIG 89 are completed. The temporary use of replacement SIG 273 will be discontinued in approximately three to four weeks (in November 2024) when the repair of SIG 89 has been completed and returned to service.

Thank you for your review and consideration of this information. Please call me at 805.325.3078 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tina Hair Hinshaw, MBA  
RVP, Mobile Operations Southeast Region  
805.325.3078  
[tina.hinshaw@akumin.com](mailto:tina.hinshaw@akumin.com)

CC: Rodney Skelding, Manager of Operations, Akumin

**From:** [Mckillip, Mike](#)  
**To:** [Stancil, Tiffany C](#)  
**Cc:** [Mitchell, Micheala L](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] NCCON-Signa 253 Temporary Replacement of Signa 89  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 10:08:56 AM  
**Attachments:** [AR\\_NCCON\\_Sig 273 Temp Coverage for Signa 89\\_10092024.pdf](#)

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Hi Tiffany,

Replacement equipment exemption request. Crystal, please.

**Michael McKillip**

Team Leader, Certificate of Need

Division of Health Service Regulation, Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need

[NC Department of Health and Human Services](#)

Office: 919-855-3877 (I am in the office on Wednesday and Friday, and can best be reached by email on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.)

[mike.mckillip@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:mike.mckillip@dhhs.nc.gov)

809 Ruggles Drive, Edgerton  
2704 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699

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**From:** Tina Hinshaw <tina.hinshaw@akumin.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 9:59 AM  
**To:** Mckillip, Mike <mike.mckillip@dhhs.nc.gov>; Mitchell, Micheala L <Micheala.Mitchell@dhhs.nc.gov>  
**Cc:** Rodney Skelding <rodney.skelding@akumin.com>; Tina Hinshaw <tina.hinshaw@akumin.com>  
**Subject:** [External] NCCON-Signa 253 Temporary Replacement of Signa 89

**CAUTION:** External email. Do not click links or open attachments unless verified. Report suspicious emails with the Report Message button located on your Outlook menu bar on the Home tab.

Please see attached documentation for temporary replacement with MRI unit Signa 253 due to maintenance issues with MRI unit #Signa 89.

Please call or email with any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Tina

**Tina Hinshaw**  
Vice President, Regional

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[akumin.com](http://akumin.com)

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