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October 21, 2013

James Falahee, Chair
Certificate of Need Commission
c/o Michigan Department of Community Health
Certificate of Need Policy Section
Capitol View Building, 201 Townsend Street
Lansing, Michigan 48913

Dear Mr. Falahee,

This letter is written to offer the comments of AKSM on the CON Review Standards for Lithotripsy Services. We believe that the CON Review Standards for Lithotripsy Services have served the citizens and providers of Michigan very well, with the exception of the expansion requirements. We had the opportunity to participate in a work group during the summer months and in the course of our research we discovered that there is a wide discrepancy across the CON Review Standards regarding the expansion volume requirement. In particular, we are concerned about the excessively high expansion requirement for lithotripsy services. The difference between volume required to initiate a service and expand a service is 80% higher in lithotripsy. This prompted us to look at the expansion requirements across all of the CON standards and it was discovered that the average volume threshold for expanding other CON covered modalities is 40% higher than the initiation volume requirement. Only one other standard (MRI) requires such a rigorous volume increase for expansion.

We are asking that the CON Commission recommend a work group to review the CON Standards with a more comprehensive look at the expansion requirements for all CON Review Standards. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this issue and we would be willing to participate as appropriate if a work group is recommended.

Sincerely,

Alan Buergenthal
C.O.O.
AKSM, Ltd.