


4/24/2014

As a radiologic technologist for the Veterans Administration (VA) I operate a mobile Computer Tomography (CT) and a mobile Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) unit. With the mobile units the biggest problems we face when we go to a site is dependable electrical power. For the equipment we require commercial power of 480 volts, three phase at 250 AMPs. With the MRI unit the voltage has to stay within 10 volts fluctuation of 480 volts. Several of the sites that we service have had to install electrical equipment in the range of \$100,000 that regulates the electrical input. The VA has been working with Indian Health Service (IHS) to provide MRI service to the Native American population. The MRI and CT mobile have service contracts to cover repairs to each unit, the service provider will not guarantee coverage of our units without certified dependable power. The MRI mobile unit is very susceptible to burning out gradient amplifiers. The gradient amplifiers cost on average between \$15,000 to \$40,000 to replace, so there has been great reluctance to offer MRI service on the reservations.

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