

**AMBERDIAGNOSTICS**

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# The 2026 Mobile MRI Certified Rental Price Guide

Rental Rates · Programs · Total Cost of Ownership

## How Much Does It Cost to Rent a Mobile MRI?

Mobile MRI rental rates typically range from \$25,000 to \$60,000 per month, with top-of-the-line configurations reaching \$70,000 or more. That is a wide spread — and it raises a question we hear from hospital administrators and imaging center directors every week: how is it that one mobile MRI scanner rents for \$25,000 a month while another commands well over \$50,000?

The answer involves several interconnected variables. Without understanding them, facilities risk overspending on capabilities they will never use, or worse, renting a system that falls short of their clinical requirements. This guide breaks down every factor that influences mobile MRI rental cost, outlines the three standard rental programs, itemizes the additional expenses most providers do not mention upfront, and explains how to choose the right mobile MRI rental provider for your situation.

★ **AMBER ADVANTAGE** Every Amber Diagnostics mobile MRI rental includes full service, preventive maintenance, and on-site application training.

## Why Rent a Mobile MRI Scanner?

Before examining pricing, it is worth understanding why mobile MRI rental has become one of the fastest-growing segments in diagnostic imaging. Facilities choose to rent a mobile MRI scanner for a variety of reasons, and the decision often has nothing to do with budget limitations. In many cases, renting is the most strategically sound option available.

## Common Scenarios for Mobile MRI Rental

**Interim coverage during construction or renovation.** When a facility is upgrading its permanent MRI suite, an interim mobile MRI rental keeps imaging services running without interruption. This is the single most common reason hospitals rent — and the one where downtime costs are highest.

**Equipment downtime or emergency replacement** A magnet quench, cold head failure, or extended service event can take a fixed MRI offline for weeks. An emergency mobile MRI rental can be deployed in as little as 5 to 10 business days, depending on fleet availability and location.

**Market testing before a permanent purchase** Imaging centers considering expansion often use a short-term mobile MRI rental to evaluate referral volume and patient demand before committing to a multi-million-dollar build-out. This is particularly common with mobile MRI rental for orthopedic practices and outpatient surgical centers.

**Volume overflow and backlog reduction** Facilities with growing patient volumes can add capacity immediately rather than waiting 12 to 18 months for a permanent installation.

**Specialized or niche applications** Mobile MRI rental for veterinary hospitals, mobile MRI rental for research facilities, and mobile MRI rental for government VA hospitals represent growing segments of the market. Each has unique requirements, and a rental allows the facility to match the system to the mission without long-term capital exposure.

## Mobile MRI Rental vs. Buying an MRI

The decision between renting a mobile MRI and purchasing a permanent system is not always straightforward. Owning a scanner involves dedicated facilities, RF shielding, power infrastructure, specialized staffing, and long-term OEM service contracts. Any lapse in maintenance or uptime directly impacts care delivery and revenue. With a mobile MRI rental with service included, those concerns are managed by the provider. The system arrives inspected, calibrated, and maintained to OEM standards. Technical support and application training are included. Service issues are handled by the rental company, not your internal resources.

For facilities that need MRI capability for fewer than 18 to 24 months, or that prefer to preserve capital for other investments, renting almost always delivers a stronger return. For those planning a permanent installation, a mobile MRI lease with buyout option allows you to begin generating revenue immediately while the permanent suite is constructed, then transition to ownership at the end of the lease term.

# Key Factors That Influence Mobile MRI Rental Cost

Having worked alongside mobile MRI rental clients on a daily basis for over three decades, we have observed a consistent pattern: the more flexible your requirements, the more affordable the options become. Highly specific requirements narrow the available inventory and drive prices upward. Here are the six primary variables that determine your monthly rate.

## 1. Duration of the Rental Period

This is the single largest factor that will determine what you pay. Think of it the same way you would a commercial lease: the longer the commitment, the lower the rate. Mobile MRI rental contract terms fall into three standard categories:

Term	Duration	Rate Impact
<b>Short-Term</b>	2 to 5 months	Highest monthly rate. One-time delivery and setup costs are spread over fewer months, increasing effective cost per month.
<b>Mid-Term</b>	6 to 11 months	Moderate rate. This is the most popular rental duration. Logistics costs are amortized over a longer period, and providers offer volume incentives.
<b>Long-Term</b>	12+ months	Lowest monthly rate. Long-term mobile MRI lease agreements can reduce the monthly cost by 15% to 30% compared to short-term programs. Delivery fees are often negotiable or waived.

## 2. Patient Bore Diameter

MRI bore openings come in two standard diameters: 60cm and 70cm. The larger 70cm option, commonly referred to as a wide bore, is increasingly preferred because it significantly improves the mobile MRI patient experience and comfort. Larger patients, those with claustrophobia, and pediatric cases all benefit from the wider opening. Wide-bore mobile scanners carry a premium partly because they tend to be newer-generation platforms with enhanced capabilities. If patient comfort and throughput are priorities, budget accordingly for a wide bore system.

## 3. Scanner Make, Model, and Age

There is a diverse range of mobile MRI scanners available on the market. What you need or want will play a major role in what you can expect to pay. A client who requires a late-model Siemens Aera or GE SIGNA Voyager manufactured within the last three to four years should expect to pay on the higher end of the scale, which can exceed \$55,000 to \$60,000 per month depending on the rental duration. In contrast, a facility with a moderate patient volume and no advanced imaging requirements can rent an 8-channel, 60cm bore MRI for \$25,000 to \$30,000 per month.

**Models commonly available for rental:** Siemens Espree, Avanto, and Aera; GE Signa HDxt, Signa Excite and SIGNA Voyager; Philips Intera, and Ingenia. Each has different capabilities, service histories, and price points. Ask your provider for the specific make, model, software version, and channel count of the system being quoted.

## 4. RF Channel Count

A system's number of RF receive channels directly impacts its ability to separate meaningful signal from background noise. Greater channel counts translate to sharper images and shorter acquisition times. For 1.5T mobile MRI rental platforms in particular, the difference between an 8-channel and a 32-channel system is substantial. Higher channel counts enable parallel imaging, which reduces scan time by 30% to 50% for many protocols. This improves patient throughput and can directly impact your revenue per day.

Channels	Typical Systems	Best For
4 to 8	GE LX, Excite II, Siemens Symphony 4/8ch	Routine exams, veterinary, low volume
16	GE Excite HDXT, Siemens Avanto, Espree	Most clinical protocols, wide applicability
24 to 32+	GE SIGNA Voyager, Siemens Aera, Philips Ingenia	Advanced neuro, cardiac, research, high volume

## 5. Coil Configuration

An MRI's clinical versatility is expanded considerably through specialized receive coils designed for particular anatomical studies. Every rental includes a standard coil package sufficient for routine whole-body scanning. However, if your practice requires breast coils, dedicated cardiac arrays, small-joint extremity coils, or other specialty hardware not included in the base package, this will increase your monthly rate. Discuss your clinical protocol list with the provider before signing to ensure the coil set matches your needs.

## 6. Advanced Software and Licensing

Demand continues to grow for capabilities such as AI-assisted imaging, comprehensive whole-body protocols, diffusion tensor imaging (DTI), and specialized sequences for traumatic brain injury evaluation. These capabilities are software-dependent and often require specific scanner models, which narrows the available inventory and can increase your monthly rate. If your facility handles neurological or cardiac cases, confirm that the system includes the sequences your radiologists require before committing.

# Mobile MRI Rental Programs and Pricing

Mobile MRI rental programs generally fall into three tiers based on rental duration, system capability, and price. Each is designed to address different combinations of clinical need, technology generation, and budget. The following reflects current market pricing as of 2026.

## SHORT-TERM RENTAL PROGRAM

**2 to 5 Months | \$24,000 to \$29,000 per Month + Delivery & Setup**

- ✓ 4 to 8 RF receive channels
- ✓ Standard coil package included (body, spine, head, knee)
- ✓ 60cm bore diameter
- ✓ Well-suited for startup imaging centers, veterinary hospitals, and low-volume clinics
- ✓ Designed for routine whole-body examinations (brain, spine, knee, shoulder, abdomen)
- ✓ Generally older-generation but fully functional platforms
- ✓ Appropriate for moderate patient throughput (8 to 12 patients per day)
- ✓ Full service and preventive maintenance included (Amber Diagnostics)
- ✓ On-site application training included (Amber Diagnostics)

Short-term mobile MRI rental programs carry a higher monthly rate because one-time logistics costs (delivery, setup, de-installation) are spread over fewer months. For practices focused on standard diagnostic scans without heavy demand for advanced neuro or cardiac imaging, these systems are entirely sufficient. They are widely deployed in veterinary imaging, urgent care settings, and smaller clinics with moderate scan volumes. Common systems at this tier include the GE Signa Excite HD, Philips Achieva and Intera, and Siemens Symphony 4-channel and 8-channel.

**Best for:** Emergency mobile MRI rental during unexpected downtime, mobile MRI rental during construction when a 2- to 4-month renovation timeline is firm, or market testing before committing to a permanent system.

## MID-TERM RENTAL PROGRAM

**6 to 11 Months | \$26,000 to \$40,000 per Month + Delivery & Setup**

- ✓ 16 RF receive channels
- ✓ Broad coil library available (body, spine, head, knee, shoulder, breast, cardiac)
- ✓ Typically equipped with 70cm wide bore for enhanced patient comfort
- ✓ Modern, current-generation technology with excellent parts availability
- ✓ Handles the vast majority of clinical protocols in demand today
- ✓ PACS and RIS integration support included
- ✓ Full service, preventive maintenance, and application training included (Amber Diagnostics)
- ✓ Highly adaptable and upgrade-friendly

This is the most popular rental tier across the industry. A 16-channel, wide-bore mobile MRI scanner with an extensive coil library accommodates the overwhelming majority of clinical protocols in demand today, from routine musculoskeletal and neurological exams to breast imaging and abdominal studies. The mid-term duration provides enough runway to complete most renovation projects, evaluate referral patterns, or bridge the gap between equipment purchases. Notable systems at this level include the GE Excite HDXT, later-generation Philips Achieva models, and the Siemens Avanto, Espree, and Trio

## LONG-TERM RENTAL PROGRAM

**12+ Months | \$26,000 to \$55,000 per Month + Delivery & Setup (Often Negotiable)**

- ✓ 70cm wide bore standard on premium systems
- ✓ 24 or more RF receive channels with fully digital coil architecture
- ✓ Accelerated scan throughput (parallel imaging, compressed sensing)
- ✓ Superior image resolution and clarity for advanced clinical applications
- ✓ Latest-generation software capabilities (AI-assisted imaging, advanced diffusion)
- ✓ Late-model scanners from Siemens, GE, and Philips
- ✓ Lease-to-own and buyout options available
- ✓ Delivery fees negotiable or waived on multi-year commitments
- ✓ Full service, preventive maintenance, and application training included (Amber Diagnostics)

Long-term mobile MRI lease pricing varies substantially depending on the scanner you choose. A late-model 70cm wide bore with a fully digital coil platform, such as the GE SIGNA Voyager, Philips Ingenia, or Siemens Aera, will rent for \$35,000 to \$55,000 per month. A 60cm bore system with a standard coil package rents for as low as \$26,000 per month on a long-term agreement.

# Market Snapshot: What Other Providers Are Quoting (2025–2026)

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Amber's pricing above reflects our own fleet and all-inclusive programs. For context, here is what independent rental listings and competitor buyer guides across the broader market were quoting in 2025–2026:

- Published monthly mobile MRI rates across the market run roughly \$18,000 to \$75,000, with most facilities landing between \$20,000 and \$65,000 depending on field strength, bore, channel count, system age, and term length.
- Entry-level platforms (Siemens Symphony, GE LX, Philips Intera) on short three-month terms are commonly quoted around \$18,950 to \$25,000 per month, plus transport.
- Newer wide-bore platforms (Siemens Avanto and Espree, GE 23X and Voyager) are commonly quoted around \$40,000 to \$46,000+ per month, plus transport.
- Transportation is frequently quoted at roughly \$2,500 to \$15,000 each way — often calculated at about \$5.50 to \$10.00 per mile, with \$4,500 a common figure on a typical haul.
- Application training is widely billed at \$1,000 to \$2,000 per day, and generator rental at \$5,000 to \$15,000 per month — both included at no charge on Amber programs.

*Market figures synthesized from public 2024–2026 listings and buyer guides including Mansa Medical, Cube Mobile Imaging, Medco Blue, KWIPPED, Kings Medical, PLAT Mobile, and iviescan.*

## Beyond the Monthly Rate: Total Cost of Renting a Mobile MRI

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The monthly rental rate is only one component of the overall financial picture. Smart renters account for the full spectrum of expenses associated with bringing a mobile MRI online. Here is every cost category you should budget for.

### Transportation

Moving a mobile MRI trailer requires specialized equipment, experienced drivers, and careful handling to preserve the magnet's integrity during transit. The superconducting magnet must remain cold and stable throughout the journey. Delivery charges typically range from \$3,000 to \$9,000 each way, depending on the distance between the provider's facility and your site. On long-term mobile MRI lease agreements, delivery fees are often negotiable or waived entirely. On short-term rentals of two to three months, a waived delivery fee is unlikely regardless of the system's value.

## Site Preparation and Power Requirements

Readying your facility for a mobile MRI involves coordinating several elements. The mobile MRI scanner dimensions and weight matter: a typical trailer is approximately 48 feet long, 8.5 feet wide (with an additional 5 feet where stairs and ramp extend), and 13.5 feet tall, weighing 30 to 50 tons depending on the system. Super coach trailers can be 60 feet long and 12 feet wide. You will need a level concrete or asphalt pad, adequate turning clearance for the tractor, and proximity to your facility's entrance for patient access.

Power is the most critical site requirement. Most mobile MRI systems require 480V, 3-phase, 200-amp electrical service via a Russellstoll receptacle. If your facility does not have a compatible power source within 50 feet of the planned trailer location, you will need an electrician to install one. Alternatively, a generator can provide power, but this adds \$5,000 to \$15,000 depending on location and local fuel costs, and the generator must run 24/7 to maintain the magnet's cryogenic system. Amber Diagnostics provides a detailed site planning guide and will coordinate with your facility engineer or a local contractor to ensure proper electrical setup.

## Mobile MRI Helium and Cryogenic Requirements

Superconducting MRI magnets require liquid helium to maintain their operating temperature near absolute zero. Older systems consume helium gradually and require periodic refills, which can cost \$8,000 to \$15,000 per event. Newer zero-boil-off magnet designs, found on systems like the Siemens Espree and Aera, virtually eliminate helium consumption and significantly reduce this ongoing expense. When comparing rental quotes, ask whether helium maintenance is included in the monthly rate or billed separately. Every Amber Diagnostics rental includes cryogenic maintenance as part of the standard service package.

## Setup and Go-Live

Once the mobile MRI trailer has been delivered, placed under power, leveled, and inspected, an MR field service engineer arrives to bring the system online. This process includes verifying the cryo chain of operation, testing the liftgate and patient access systems, confirming HVAC temperatures are within specification, checking all lighting and emergency systems, running diagnostic scans to validate image quality, implementing your clinical protocols, and configuring the scanner to communicate with your facility's PACS and RIS systems. Setup fees typically range from \$3,000 to \$5,000 as a one-time charge.

## Application Training

If your technologists are unfamiliar with the rental system's model training is essential. Many providers charge \$1,000 to \$2,000 per day while Amber Diagnostics includes on-site application training at no additional cost for most rental programs.

## Quick Reference: Total Cost Breakdown

Cost Category	Typical Range	Notes
Monthly rental rate	\$24,000 – \$60,000+	Based on system, term, and configuration
Transportation (each way)	\$3,000 – \$9,000	Distance-dependent; often negotiable on long-term
Setup and go-live	\$3,000 – \$5,000	One-time; includes engineer on-site
Generator (if needed)	\$5,000 – \$15,000	Monthly; required if no 480V shore power
Application training	\$0 – \$5,000	Included free with Amber Diagnostics
Service and maintenance	\$0 – \$8,000+/mo	Included free with Amber Diagnostics
Helium refill (if applicable)	\$8,000 – \$15,000	Per event; included with Amber Diagnostics
De-installation and return	\$3,000 – \$9,000	Often included in round-trip transport quote

## How to Choose a Mobile MRI Rental Provider

Not all mobile MRI rental companies are equal. Some own their fleet and control every aspect of the rental experience. Others are brokers who sublease equipment from third parties, marking it up and providing limited control over pricing, system condition, or service responsiveness. Here is what to evaluate.

### Staffing: Dry Lease vs. Turnkey

Mobile MRI rental with technologist staffing, sometimes called a turnkey or wet lease, means the provider supplies both the equipment and the ARRT-certified MRI technologists. This eliminates your facility's burden of recruitment, credentialing, and benefits management, but the monthly cost is higher. A dry lease, where you provide your own technologists, is the more common and more affordable option for hospitals with existing MRI staff. When evaluating quotes, confirm whether staffing is included or available as an add-on, and what the cost difference is.

### **Does the provider own their fleet?**

Companies that own their mobile MRI scanners can offer lower prices, faster response times, and more flexible terms because they are not dependent on third-party inventory. Ask directly: do you own this system, or are you brokering it? If the provider cannot show you photos and specifications of the exact unit you will receive, that is a red flag.

### **What is included in the monthly rate?**

The most common source of hidden costs in mobile MRI rental is unbundled services. Some providers quote a low monthly rate, then bill separately for service, helium, parts, training, and even software licenses. Ask for a fully itemized quote that specifies exactly what is and is not included. Compare total cost of ownership, not just the headline monthly number.

### **What is the provider's uptime guarantee?**

Downtime on a mobile MRI can cost your facility \$5,000 to \$15,000 per day in lost revenue. Look for providers that offer a 95% or higher uptime guarantee with defined response times. Ask about their service infrastructure: do they employ their own field engineers, or do they contract repairs to third parties?

### **Can the system integrate with your PACS and RIS?**

Every mobile MRI rental should include DICOM configuration and PACS/RIS integration as part of the setup process. Confirm that the provider's team will handle VPN setup, DICOM routing, and worklist configuration so that patient studies flow directly into your existing reading workflow.

### **Is the provider experienced with your facility type?**

A provider with experience supporting hospitals, imaging centers, VA facilities, veterinary hospitals, and research institutions will understand the unique requirements of each. ACR accreditation requirements for mobile MRI, state radiation safety regulations, Joint Commission standards for interim imaging, and facility-specific credentialing processes all vary by setting.

## **Mobile MRI Rental Hidden Costs to Avoid**

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Transparency is essential in this industry. Here are the hidden costs that can inflate your total spend if you are not asking the right questions upfront.

**Unbundled service contracts.** Some providers quote equipment-only rates and bill \$3,000 to \$8,000 per month separately for maintenance. Always ask: is full service included?

**Helium billed per event.** An unplanned helium fill can cost \$10,000 or more. Providers with zero-boil-off systems eliminate this risk.

**Upcharges on coils and software.** Specialty coils or software options quoted after the initial agreement can add \$500 to \$2,000 per month. Negotiate these into the base rate.

**Early termination penalties.** If your project timeline shifts, some providers impose steep penalties. Understand the cancellation policy before signing.

**De-installation charges not disclosed upfront.** The cost to remove the unit at the end of the rental is often omitted from initial quotes. Ask for round-trip transportation pricing.

## Who Rents Mobile MRI Scanners?

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Mobile MRI rental is not limited to large hospital systems. Our clients span a wide range of healthcare settings and facility types:

**Hospitals and health systems** — interim coverage during equipment replacement, renovation, or volume expansion.

**Outpatient imaging centers** — market testing, backlog reduction, and capacity bridging while permanent suites are built.

**Orthopedic and sports medicine practices** — high-demand MSK imaging on a flexible, scalable platform.

**Veterinary specialty hospitals** — equine and large-animal imaging, oncology staging, and neurology workups.

**Government and VA hospitals** — GSA-compatible rentals for federal healthcare facilities.

**Research institutions and universities** — clinical trial imaging, grant-funded research protocols, and temporary capacity.

**Rural and critical access hospitals** — delivering advanced diagnostics to underserved communities without permanent infrastructure investment.

## Mobile MRI vs. Modular MRI: Which Is Right for You?

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Mobile and modular MRI are not the same thing. A mobile MRI is a fully self-contained imaging suite housed in a trailer that can be relocated. A modular MRI is a semi-permanent prefabricated structure installed on a concrete pad, typically with its own HVAC and shielding. Modular installations look and feel more like a permanent suite but take 8 to 16 weeks to install. Mobile units can be operational in days. If your need is truly temporary (under 24 months), a mobile MRI rental is almost always more

cost-effective. If you are planning a permanent or semi-permanent addition, a modular installation or stationary mobile configuration may be worth evaluating alongside a long-term mobile MRI lease.

## Partner with Amber Diagnostics

Mobile MRI rental involves numerous interconnected variables, and overlooking even one can result in project delays, budget overruns, or a system that does not meet your clinical objectives. Partnering with an experienced mobile MRI rental company from the outset is the most reliable way to ensure a successful outcome.

Amber Diagnostics has supported healthcare organizations nationwide in sourcing, refurbishing, and deploying diagnostic imaging equipment since 1994. As both a mobile MRI and CT rental provider and a full-service equipment dealer, we bring a perspective that pure rental companies cannot match: we understand the systems from the inside out because we refurbish, install, and service them ourselves.

### What Sets Amber Apart

**\$0 Service Fee.** Full service and preventive maintenance on the scanner and the trailer included on every rental at no additional cost.

**Fleet Ownership.** We own our mobile units, so we control pricing, availability, and system condition.

**30+ Years of Experience.** Since 1994, serving hospitals, imaging centers, veterinary facilities, and government health systems.

**Turnkey Delivery and Setup.** From site planning through PACS integration and go-live, we manage the entire process.

**Nationwide Service.** Mobile MRI rental nationwide from our Orlando, Florida headquarters.

## AMBERDIAGNOSTICS, INC.

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*Note: Rental rates, programs, and cost ranges in this guide reflect current market conditions as of 2026 and are provided as general planning guidance. Actual pricing varies by system make, model, age, configuration, rental term, geographic distance, and site conditions. MRI helium/cryogen maintenance is included on Amber rentals. Contact Amber Diagnostics for a quote specific to your facility and timeline.*