

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! Even though it is our favorite time of year, we are glad the hustle and bustle of the holidays is behind us and we are facing the new calendar year with excitement and enthusiasm. We have much to be thankful for and we will not let the cold weather of winter dampen our spirits! We also hope that old man Winter does not hinder the builders working on our new hospital!

Health System Administrator Bill Lance reported to the Committee that the pouring of concrete to create the floors in the new hospital is nearing completion. The first floor is done and the second is nearing completion while the third floor is beginning to take shape. We continue to hope that the building will be ready for inspection by the Indian Health Service in January, 2010. Then we can install equipment and open the doors for business in approximately March, 2010. There will be a great celebration when that occurs!

We welcome Dr. Syed, psychiatrist, and a new Physicians' Assistant to the Ardmore Clinic. We are sad to report that Dr. Molina is leaving the staff of the Family Practice Clinic; however we welcome his temporary replacement, Dr. Brent Denley. We continue to search for 3 dentists to fill vacancies at Carl Albert and the Tishomingo Clinic.

Bill Lance reported the following statistics: for the month of November, 2008, there were 229 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 18,185. November Emergency Room visits were 976.

November saw 227 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,730 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 1,700 patients in November. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,567 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,678. The Durant Clinic saw 2,283 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,026 in November. These numbers are down from

last month. However, Mr. Lance reported that flu season is in full bloom and the clinics are overflowing in December.

I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address mary.green@chickasaw.net or through the address and telephone number listed elsewhere in this and every issue of the Chickasaw Times and on the Chickasaw Nation web site. My articles are also located on the web site. Until next month, thank you.