

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! The ground hog must have seen his shadow because we are continuing with winter like weather in Ada. Surely warmer temperatures will be here soon.

Health System Administrator Bill Lance met with the Health Care Committee this month and reported that the piers for the new hospital are being poured and work continues on the parking areas. He also reported that the Oklahoma Area Director of Indian Health service, John Dority is retiring on April 3.

Plans continue to move forward for improvements at the health clinics in Ardmore, Purcell, Tishomingo and Durant. Target populations in those areas are being studied to determine the feasibility of providing wellness centers and/or long term care facilities.

Regarding services at large, the health System plans to start honoring prescriptions from private physicians as long as the medications are on the formulary. However, no narcotic medications will be provided in that program. Starting date is unknown at this time.

Administrator Lance has submitted the following statistics: for the month of January, 2008, there were 268 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 19,686. January Emergency Room visits were 1,025. January saw 252 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 3,725 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,198 patients in January. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,719 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,905. The Durant Clinic saw 2,655 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,077 in January.

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.