

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! It is summertime in the Chickasaw Nation which is good for all the construction going on. The dirt work is being done on new buildings for the Legislative and Judicial Departments, work continues on Winstar Casino and the new hospital is rising to meet the sky, just to mention a few.

We have, or will have shortly, a few new health care providers in the Health System. Dr. Antonio Lee is the new full time physician in Internal Medicine; D.A. Ruby is our new Nurse Practitioner at the Ardmore clinic; Dr. R. Alan Smith is our new full time Physician at the Durant clinic; and Julie Grimm is the new Physician Assistant in the Same Day Clinic. Serena Black, Nurse Practitioner, has moved to Tishomingo and Mike Langfus, Physician Assistant, has moved from Tishomingo to become our tribal health provider floating between Durant and Tishomingo. We welcome the new staff and new assignments! We are blessed to have you with us.

Health System Administrator Bill Lance reports the following statistics: for the month of June, 2008, there were 233 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 18,396. May Emergency Room visits were 916. June saw 263 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,496 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,122 patients in June. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,977 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 1,966. The Durant Clinic saw 2,442 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 2,191 in June.

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.