

Hello and greetings from Legislator Mary Jo Green, Seat 5, Pontotoc District and Committee Chair of the Health Care Committee! By the time you are reading this, our Festival will have passed into history. There were more activities than ever before and we were visited by many first time attendees. I was very blessed as my nephew and family and several other relatives came for the first time from out of state. They were very pleased to be able to be recognized as being Chickasaw and taking part in the festivities.

The Health Care Committee met with Health Administrator Bill Lance on September 10. Bill reported several items of interest and answered questions of the Legislators. He reported that the tentative date for groundbreaking for the new hospital is November 9 and construction will begin the following week. We are very happy and anxious to see that day come. The new hospital will be a major milestone for the Chickasaw Nation!

Bill submitted the following statistics: for the month of August, 2007, there were 242 hospitalizations at Carl Albert Indian Health Facility. The number of outpatient visits at Carl Albert was 18,496. August Emergency Room visits were 1,145. August saw 294 surgeries and the Same-day Clinic saw 2,821 patients.

The Family Practice Clinic in Ada saw 2,095 patients in August. The Ardmore Clinic saw 2,711 patients and the Tishomingo Clinic saw 2,159. The Durant Clinic saw 2,288 patients and the Purcell Clinic saw 1,734 in August.

May you all enjoy the best of health possible and may God bless each of you readers and the Chickasaw Nation. I would love to hear from you! Please contact me through my email address [mary.green@chickasaw.net](mailto: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.