

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Volume 2, Issue 1

December 2023

Office Updates

Greetings from the Office of Health Policy. We recently finished reviewing more than 129 health bills presented to the legislature of Oklahoma and are now in the process of reviewing interim studies. Interim studies are areas of interests elected officials use to share thoughts and increase their knowledge through expert presentations by outside speakers. In Oklahoma, there are several interim studies focusing on childhood obesity, screentime, the science of reading, declining mental health and many others. Often, these interim studies lead to legislative bills presented in the following legislative year. You can follow interim studies in your state by visiting your state legislative webpage. Each state conducts these studies differently and may give them a different name. If you need help finding your state's interim study process, please let us know and we will gladly help with your research. [OK—Senate](#), [OK—House](#)

Chipisala'cho,

Judy Goforth Parker, Ph.D., APRN, FACHE



Executive Order 13175

Executive orders (E.O.) are used to set a policy direction for presidential administrations, and the use of these orders date back to George Washington. In 1907, numbering was added to executive orders. In 2000, the Clinton Administration presented E.O. 13175 on tribal consultation and strengthening nation-to-nation relationships. E.O. 13175 directs agencies to “establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have tribal implications, to strengthen the United States government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes, and to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes...” The January 2021 Presidential Memorandum from the Biden administration gave the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) two roles: reviewing other agencies’ plans and subsequent reports to ensure that they comply with E.O. 13175 and submitting an implementation plan to govern its own actions as an agency.

The Presidential Memorandum in 2021 required the head of each agency to submit to OMB a detailed plan of actions the agency will take to implement the policies and directives of E.O. 13175. The plan shall be developed after consultation by the agency with tribal nations and tribal officials. Tribal consultation is taking place across many federal agencies as we work to assure that executive order is being followed.

Compounded Medications

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cautions using compounded medications. These are custom-made drugs created by special pharmacies, and they do not go through the same FDA approval process as regular medicines. When there is a shortage of certain medicines, like Ozempic and Wegovy, compounded versions might become available as alternatives.



Experts recommend you avoid substituting compounded medications for popular weight loss and diabetes drugs, except when there is an official drug shortage. Compounded versions of these drugs might have similar-sounding ingredients to the FDA-approved versions, like Semaglutide, but they might be a little different because they are in a salt form. The FDA says these salt-based products have not been proven to be as safe and effective as the FDA-approved medications.

Talk to your health care provider before making any decisions about using compounded medications. It is essential to be well-informed about the differences and potential risks.

Josh Bennett, Pharm.D., MBA
Pharmacist and Healthcare Analyst for the Chickasaw Nation

Syringes

First Americans have had a substantial impact on the world that largely goes unrecognized today. In 1853, a Scottish doctor by the name of Alexander Wood received the credit for the creation of the first hypodermic syringe. However, First Americans were not given credit for a tool they invented much earlier. Before colonization, Indigenous peoples created a method using a sharpened, hollowed-out bird bone connected to an animal bladder that could hold and inject fluids into the body. This instrument was also used to irrigate wounds or even clean out ears. A similar and larger instrument was used by Indigenous healers for enemas. First Americans have created thousands upon thousands of innovations that are in use today.



Update Your Shots!

Vaccinations play a crucial role in protecting us from preventable diseases. Keeping up with immunization records and ensuring they are given at the right times is important for keeping us and our families safe.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend a vaccine schedule for children ages 18 and younger. There are times when children are most vulnerable to certain diseases and receiving the vaccine at those times increases their effectiveness.

Vaccinations are not exclusive to children. There are plenty of vaccines that benefit adults as well, such as the annual flu shot. Play your part in keeping your family safe by making sure your shots are updated!

Have questions or suggestions for the Office of Health Policy?

Please send an email to Judy.Parker@Chickasaw.net