

## **2023 Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month: May**

The IHS Division of Nursing Services Nurse of the Month for May 2023 is CDR Dana Cash, MSN, RN, from the Claremore Indian Hospital (CIH) in the IHS Oklahoma City Area.

CDR Cash serves as the Emergency Department (ED) Nurse Manager overseeing operations in one of IHS's highest volume Emergency Departments with more than 35,000 annual visits. CDR Cash provides leadership and supervision for 28 full-time licensed professionals as well as additional contractors.

Under CDR Cash's leadership, Claremore Indian Hospital's Emergency Department received the 2021 IHS Director's Award for COVID-19 Pandemic Heroism. CDR Cash has participated in Leading an Empowered Organization training and has incorporated strategies fostering responsibility and accountability that are evident in her unit's positive team relationships. She promotes a culture of safety and cohesiveness. She facilitates positive change initiatives towards process improvements by consistently using a systems perspective, not only within the ED, but also throughout the facility. CDR Cash has positively influenced the ED staffs' work behaviors and morale by initiating, holding, and participating in critical incident stress debriefings in the ED after traumatic events.

CDR Cash's commitment and dedication towards continuously improving the quality of patient care and satisfaction, as well as strengthening and fulfilling staff members skill sets, is exhibited through her leadership and teaching. She utilizes her instructor certifications from the American Heart Association and the Emergency Nurses Association to educate and train CIH nurses, and nurses statewide, in Basic Life Saving skills and Trauma Nursing Core Curriculum. CDR Cash serves on the Northeast Regional Trauma Advisory Board and Northeast Regional Planning Committee collaborating with other community health agencies towards providing skillful care to community members and our patients.

CDR Cash has outlined CIH's operating budget for the ED while leading cost efficient and effective operations. She is a leader for CIH's task group on National Pediatric Readiness Quality Initiative and led the task group initiative for CIHs Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) through the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Her leadership has facilitated CIH achieving GEDA certification to become the first and only GEDA ED in the state of Oklahoma.