



Charlene Avery, M.D.

Director

Office of Clinical and Preventive Services
Indian Health Service

Charlene Avery, M.D., an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation, was selected in May 2010 to serve as the Director, Office of Clinical and Preventive Services (OCPS) for the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). In this position, Dr. Avery serves as a principal advisor for policy development, budget development, and allocation for clinical, preventive, and public health programs throughout the IHS. The OCPS is responsible for national health professional recruitment, health program implementation, emergency services, and management of several grant programs for IHS.

After working as Clinical Director of the Carl T. Curtis Health Education Center in Nebraska, Dr. Avery worked for 12 years as Chief of the IHS Gallup Indian Medical Center Diabetes Department. Her work included supervising clinics throughout the Gallup Service Unit, developing innovative cultural and children's preventative health care programs, conducting diabetes research, and providing leadership for the Improving Patient Care initiative.

More recently, Dr. Avery served as a primary care internist and led several system redesign projects at the Raymond G. Murphy Veteran's Affairs Hospital in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Avery's most recent professional affiliations include serving as chairperson of the National Diabetes Education Program American Indian Work Group and president-elect of the Association of American Indian Physicians.

Dr. Avery received her bachelor's degree from Harvard University in Ethnomedicine of the American Southwest. In 1991, Dr. Avery earned her medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine residency at the Reading Hospital and Medical Center in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Avery has served as a diabetes consultant for several national initiatives and has published articles on American Indian health and culture in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The Diabetes Educator*, and *Diabetes Care*.