

Medical Mission
Chinle Reservation
Navajo Nation



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CHINLE HOSPITAL



GET YOUR
FLU SHOT NOW



Chinle Reservation



- ❧ Navajo Nation
- ❧ Population: 5418
- ❧ Located in north east Arizona – near Four Corners
- ❧ 16 square miles
- ❧ Gallup, NM – nearest town
 - ❧ 90 minute drive
 - ❧ Population 22,000
- ❧ Albuquerque, NM
 - ❧ Nearest major airport
 - ❧ 4-5 hour drive



Chinle Reservation



- ☞ 72% speak Navajo at home
- ☞ ~50% of homes have running water
- ☞ ~50% of homes have electricity
- ☞ 44% live below the poverty line



Canyon de Chelly

- Adjacent to town of Chinle
- National Monument established in 1931
- Continuously inhabited for over 5000 years
- Pueblos were first inhabitants
- Now part of Navajo Trust
- Currently about 40 Navajo families live and farm on the Canyon floor





Spider Rock -700' spire



Chinle Hospital



- ❧ Part of the Indian Health Service (IHS)
- ❧ 60 beds
- ❧ Limited services
 - ❧ No Orthopaedic Surgery
 - ❧ No Hand Surgery
 - ❧ Closest transfer:
Flagstaff, AZ - 180 miles
away





Hand Clinic



- ☞ Visiting Hand Surgeons
 - ☞ 4-6 per year
 - ☞ Tour of 5 days
- ☞ 2 excellent Certified Hand Therapists (CHTs) on site
- ☞ In the absence of a Hand Surgeon patients are well cared for by internists, family medicine doctors and CHTs



Operating Room



- ❧ 2 operating rooms
- ❧ Well staffed
- ❧ Modern equipment
- ❧ Similar structure and function to Veterans Affairs (VA) Health System



Chinle Patients



- ❧ Most present with poorly managed, chronic disease
 - ❧ Diabetes
 - ❧ Rheumatoid arthritis

- ❧ Many overuse injuries of the arms
 - ❧ Hauling fire wood to heat their homes
 - ❧ Carrying buckets of well water to their homes

- ❧ Respectful and appreciative

Common ailments/injuries



- ❧ Carpal tunnel syndrome and trigger finger – often exacerbated by poorly managed diabetes
- ❧ Lacerations and fractures with delayed presentations, which complicates management and recovery, and ultimately impedes use of the hand
- ❧ Advanced arthritis, especially rheumatoid arthritis
- ❧ Many patients come from geographically remote Reservations, with delayed presentations from initial injury
 - ❧ Shiprock, AZ
 - ❧ Tuba City, AZ
 - ❧ Fort Defiance, AZ







Thank You