



Speaker Bio

Deb Burdsall, MSN, RN-BC, CIC

Deb Burdsall was essentially “raised” in long term care. She started out working as a nurse’s aide at the Lutheran Home in 1974, working through college and nursing school in a variety of nursing homes, hospitals and schools. After graduating from Allegheny College with a degree in psychology she attended The Evanston Hospital School of Nursing. After graduation as an RN, she worked in medical oncology and telemetry before returning to long term care. As a nurse in long term care she has worn many hats, doing jobs such as staff nurse, nursing supervisor, MDS/care plan coordinator, inservice coordinator, adult day services nurse/ child day care nurse, infection control, community liaison for emergency preparedness; a normal state of affairs for employees in long term care or assisted living. She has been infection control coordinator since 1991.

Deb is currently Infection Preventionist at Lutheran Home/Lutheran Life Communities in Arlington Heights Illinois, a care community providing adult day services, assisted living, memory support continuum, sheltered, intermediate and skilled care. Deb has board certifications in gerontological nursing (ANCC) and infection control (CBIC). She has a Masters in Nursing from the University of Iowa College of Nursing and is a 2009-2011 John A Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Excellence Scholar and is a doctoral student at The University of Iowa College of Nursing, with an emphasis on finding cost effective, evidence based infection prevention strategies for long term care. Her doctoral dissertation is validating the glove use surveillance tool (GUST), a tool that can be used to look at how gloves are used by healthcare workers during the sequence of patient care. Deb lives in the Chicago area with her husband, Rick, who are very fortunate to have their three sons nearby!