

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, in-service 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 1993.

Deb is currently Corporate Infection Preventionist at 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 doctoral student at The University of Iowa College of Nursing, with an emphasis aging studies and epidemiology, and a 2009-11 John A Hartford Building Academic Geriatric Excellence Scholar. She splits her time between Palatine, Illinois and Iowa City, Iowa, with her husband, Rick and their three sons.