



## Meet ORHC Infection Preventionist

# Cheryl VanWeelden

Cheryl has been ORHC's Quality Specialist for Infection Prevention for four years. She has been a RN for thirty five years, and has worked with infection control since 1982. In 2016, she received her certification for infection control, and is currently a District F1 consultant for Iowa.

A typical day for Cheryl involves reviewing charts, looking at culture reports, finding any needs for isolations, and rounding on the floor. "I enjoy my job because it's challenging. There is always something new to learn," Cheryl shared. Much of Cheryl's job happens behind the scenes, however, she still directly impacts the patients by proactively protecting them from contracting an infection while in the hospital, educating the staff, and making sure patients antibiotics are appropriate for their diagnosis.

Cheryl positively affects co-workers by constantly having her door open for questions. "No question is too small. I always want to be approachable," Cheryl explained.

"Cheryl is very upbeat and has a positive attitude. She is always doing things to help others and is and a team player," said Paula Simplot, Director of Quality and Risk Management. "She does a great job of working with the staff on the floors. She is always willing to help the other members of the Quality team as well as others."

Co-worker Tara Webster explained, "Cheryl is a huge asset to our department and organization. She has so much valuable experience and knowledge and is always willing to share. She goes above and beyond to help other individuals, leaders and departments with a friendly and caring attitude."

Thank you Cheryl for your dedication to ensuring our patients get quality care and making ORHC a safer place for our patients and staff.