**Health Paraprofessional**

A Health Paraprofessional may be recommended when a student’s medical or functional status (e.g., severe orthopedic impairments; multiple sensory deficits; inability to perform self-care activities such as toileting, dressing; uncontrolled seizure disorders) prevent the student from participating in and benefiting from school-based activities with less intensive supports, including school-based nurses, related service providers and programmatic paraprofessionals.

The IEP team may recommend health paraprofessional services without a referral to the Central Nursing Office only if there is no indication that the student has a medical condition that may require urgent care.

A 1:1 health paraprofessional may be recommended to provide a student with assistance in activities of daily living (often including transfers from wheelchair to adaptive equipment, ambulation assistance, oral feeding, observing food intake, dressing, managing orthotics and use of assistive communication or writing devices).

A 1:1 health paraprofessional may also be recommended to monitor the student for specific signs and symptoms related to the student’s health or medical condition; to notify the school nurse when indicated; and/or to bring the student to the school nurse at the appropriate times for treatment or medications needed. A 1:1 health paraprofessional may be trained to administer an EpiPen or use Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS). A referral for non-1:1 skilled nursing — in addition to a 1:1 health paraprofessional — is required if a student requires a health professional for the above reasons or if the student has any other medical condition that may require urgent care.

A 1:1 health paraprofessional may require instruction or training in performing these tasks safely. When appropriate, such training may be provided by the school nurse or the Borough Nursing Director. Such training needs should be specified in the Supports for School Personnel section of the IEP.

For support in safely serving students with mobility needs, including safely transferring students into or out of wheelchairs or adaptive equipment, the OT/PT Managers should be consulted and will support as needed.