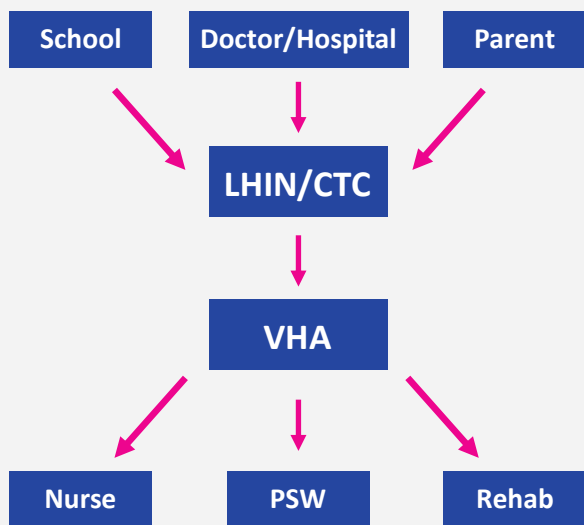


VHA's Role

Your VHA nurse, personal support worker, or rehab professional was requested by your Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) or Children's Treatment Centre (CTC) to assist your child with identified needs. This request to VHA may have originated from you, your doctor, the hospital, or your child's school.



Your VHA team will develop a care plan in collaboration with you and the school staff (if appropriate) that fits the needs of your child. The care plan is a living document that reflects and is responsive to your child's changing needs.

If you have additional needs not being met by your current providers, contact your LHIN or CTC to discuss other available services.

Building a Strong Working Relationship with Your VHA Worker

As you develop strong working relationships with your healthcare team, please remember that they are held to professional standards and distinct scopes of practice.

Sometimes parents ask our staff and service providers to do housework. While we know how much work it is to care for a child with complex medical needs, housework is not within their scope of clinical practice.

While the service provider is in the home, their focus is on the child who is the client, and they are not able to look after other children in the home.



How does VHA help my child at home or school?



Creating More Independence



Your VHA Worker

Personal Support Workers

PSWs help with the personal care of your child as documented in their care plan, including:

- Helping to keep the environment where your child receives care safe and clean.
- Helping to get your child ready for school or being there when your child returns from school (Your PSW may not be able to pick them up from the bus stop).
- Helping to feed your child or warm their meals.

If the PSW does not show up for the visit, please call the VHA office at **416-489-2500**.

Rehab Professionals

Rehab Professionals provide a thorough assessment of your child's needs and determine the best plan for them, such as:

- Encouraging safe movement at home by suggesting modifications to environment which maximize safety and participation.
- Improving developmental skills by providing activities and/or exercises to encourage crawling, rolling, walking, etc.

- Helping with feeding by providing consultation on your child's nutritional needs and address swallowing difficulties or food aversions.
- Improving talking and communicating through consultation and treatment for speech and language issues.
- Helping access community resources and assisting with the completion of funding and program applications as needed.
- Improving functional skills through activities or recommendations that help with dressing, playing, printing, writing and keyboarding. Sensory strategies to improve your child's ability to engage in meaningful activity may also be provided.
- Consultations in schools and with school personnel which will enable your child to participate safely and engage in all school activities as they are able. Home programs may be provided as needed. A copy of written recommendations will be given to the school.

Nurses

- Provide family-centered care (supported by medical orders) and collaborate with families, children and health care professionals to achieve optimal results.
- Provide system navigation of health care and community services.

Shift Nurses

- Provide care for a minimum of 3 hours in a home or school setting, including bus escorts for schools and attending medical appointments with clients (with LHIN approval).
- Support personal care and all medical interventions such as tube feed preparation and medication administration.
- Care and clean medical equipment and supplies (syringes, feeding bags/bottles/ tube and suction canisters).

Visiting Nurses

- Provide goal-oriented care—usually in a short-term capacity. The visit is specific to a task(s) that is taught and delegated to the client/parent or school staff to do, if possible.

