



Brooklyn Birthing Center (BBC) is the only private, free-standing birthing center in the New York metro area. Since 1999, our board-certified midwives have offered a range of women's health services, including routine gynecological care, family planning, and BRCA testing in addition to prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care.

Our Midwives

Today's midwife is a highly skilled professional, able to draw upon the vast resources of modern medicine while carrying on the centuries-old tradition of providing compassionate care to women and their newborns. A certified midwife must possess an undergraduate degree in nursing or another discipline and a graduate degree from an accredited midwifery program. To become board certified, midwives must pass a rigorous examination administered by the American College of Nurse Midwives.

The midwife, while independently overseeing the care of healthy women and their newborns, is affiliated with physicians who are available for consultation and referral if needed. Any woman who is generally in good health may take advantage of a midwife's services during her childbearing years and beyond. In addition to maternity care, midwives provide gynecological care, including pap smears, family planning, breast exams, and BRCA testing.

Brooklyn Birthing Center's staff midwives are all board-certified nurse-midwives licensed to practice in New York State. Our midwives believe pregnancy and childbirth are normal, healthy processes, and strive to offer sensitive, individualized, and family-centered care. For more information about our midwives, please see the staff bio's in this packet!

Our Birthing Center

Our birthing center features three large, private birthing suites, two birthing tubs, a kitchen, and a family room. As of June 2013, we will be conducting routine office visits on the lower level of the building. This expansion will allow us to minimize traffic on the birthing floor, offering birthing families additional privacy and space. Unlike many hospitals, we allow laboring moms to bring multiple support team members to their births. After delivery, family members and moms may relax and bond in their private birthing room—and moms and newborns are never separated unless medically necessary.

"It was a wonderful experience," said Yonina Shineweather, the first woman to give birth at BBC. "It was like having a customized birth. Instead of me having to conform to an existing system, everything was built around me and what I wanted."

Brooklyn Birthing Center Fact Sheet

- Brooklyn Birthing Center (BBC) is the first birthing center in Brooklyn and the only freestanding birthing center in the New York metro area.
- Our birthing center is a homelike facility offering a safe and pleasant alternative to the hospital setting.
- BBC offers routine well-woman care, gynecological care including pap smears, family planning, breast exams, and BRCA testing.
- BBC is guided by principles of prevention, safety, sensitivities, self-reliance, appropriate medical intervention and cost effectiveness in the maintenance of family health.
- BBC encourages family participation by allowing the presence of children and relatives (or anyone whom the laboring woman desires) at the birth.
- Reports by the Institute of Medicine illustrate that midwives are effective in managing the care of pregnant women, resulting in fewer premature and low-weight infants, as well as lower cesarean section rates.
- BBC and its midwifery care are covered by most major health insurance programs, including Medicaid.

Our Philosophy

- We believe that childbirth is a normal, healthy process. The role of the midwife, in collaboration with obstetricians, pediatricians, and other health care providers, is to support and promote this normal process. Our team approach ensures that clients receive the best possible care.
- Through a careful screening, deviations from the norm are recognized and addressed. We always prioritize the safety of our childbearing clients and their babies.
- We believe that all women have the right to health care that is medically safe, fits their lifestyle, and respects diverse physical, psychological, social, cultural, and economic needs. We take pride in the fact that our clientele reflects the diversity of our city.
- Women and their families have the right and responsibility to assume an active role in their own health care. Patient education is an essential part of our practice. The free exchange of information between staff and clients empowers women and their families to make informed choices about their care.
- Maternity care should honor and support family unity and development. Family members, including siblings, should be involved in the childbearing experience to whatever extent the family desires.

Financial Obligation of the BBC Client

Insurance Plans

Brooklyn Birthing Center's providers are in network with many insurance plans. For your convenience, we maintain information about our relationships with many common insurance payers on our website. However, we ask that all clients obtain a Verification of Benefits report through our billing service, Digital Billing, prior to beginning care with our midwives. Digital Billing charges \$25.00 for this service. They will investigate your anticipated out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays and deductibles, and will assist you in obtaining special authorization if required by your plan.

Medicaid

If you are eligible for Medicaid, you can apply through the New York State Marketplace. Many New Yorkers who do not normally qualify for Medicaid are eligible during pregnancy, because the income limit is higher and the unborn child counts as a dependent. You may be able to use prenatal Medicaid even if you are already enrolled in a commercial insurance plan. Please note that we only accept certain Medicaid managed care plans— see our website for details.

Baby's Insurance

Please be aware that your baby must be covered by **your** health plan within 30 days of birth. If you have private (non-Medicaid) insurance, find out whether you can enroll your child in your plan as soon as possible.

All children are eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus under New York State's Child Health Plus Program, which operates on a sliding scale. If you have a Medicaid managed care plan, you should receive a Medicaid card for your unborn baby during pregnancy. You should enroll your newborn in **your** managed care plan soon after birth— coverage may not begin until the first of the month after you enroll your baby.

Please be advised that your midwife will perform a well-baby exam at birth and either a midwife or a registered nurse will do so again 2-3 days later in your home. State mandated blood tests, hearing screens, and other exams will be performed. These check-ups ensure the health and wellbeing of your baby and will be billed to your baby's insurance. In the absence of an insurance plan for your baby, **you will be responsible for these charges**. Kindly make the necessary arrangements and inform the receptionist which insurance plan will be covering your baby by 34th week of pregnancy.

For the Self-Paying Client

Global Fee:

The charges for the use of Brooklyn Birthing Center as a facility and the professional fees of the midwives total \$9,000, which includes all prenatal care, delivery, recovery, initial newborn exam, a postpartum home visit, and 6 week postpartum visit. Essential and /or optional laboratory tests and sonograms are billed directly by the lab or perinatology center.

In the event of hospitalization or any hospital service required, the cost thereof shall be the obligation of the client, who will be billed directly.

If you plan to pay out-of-pocket for the services described above, you may select one of the following plans of payment. If you select Plan A, a discount of \$500 will be given and the total payment will be \$8,500.

PLAN A. Payment in full upon acceptance.

PLAN B. Payment will be made in installments as follows:

1. \$2,000 shall be due upon acceptance
2. \$1,000 shall be due one month after acceptance
3. \$2,000 shall be due two months after acceptance
4. \$2,000 shall be due three months after acceptance
5. \$2,000 shall be due four months after acceptance

Transfer from BBC during Labor and Delivery to the Hospital:

The charges for the use of Brooklyn Birthing Center as an interim facility and the professional fees of the midwives total \$5,000, which includes all prenatal care, labor in the birthing center, delivery in the hospital, and 6 week postpartum visit. Any remaining balance due from the Global Fee shall be reimbursed within 60 days.

STATEMENT OF CLIENT'S RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The staff of the Brooklyn Birthing Center believes that families and health care providers should work together to provide safe, high quality care with each party having rights and responsibilities.

CLIENT RIGHTS

Clients have the right to:

1. Receive services without regard to age, race, color, sexual orientation, religion, marital status, sex, national origin or source of payment.
2. Be treated with consideration, respect, and dignity including privacy in treatment.
3. Be informed of the services available at the birthing center and of the identity, qualifications and liability insurance status of care provider, consultants and related services or institutions.
4. Be informed of the provisions for off-hour emergency coverage.
5. Be informed of the charges for services, eligibility for third party reimbursements and if applicable, the availability for free or reduced cost care.
6. Receive and itemized copy of their account statements, upon request.
7. Obtain from their health care providers complete and current information concerning diagnosis, treatment and prognosis in terms that can be reasonably understood, so that clients can participate in decisions relating to the plan for management of their case.
8. Receive from the provider's information necessary to give informed consent prior to the start of any non-emergency procedure or treatment or both. It shall include, at minimum, the provision of information concerning the specific procedure or treatment or both, the reasonably foreseeable risks involved, and alternatives for care of treatment, if any, as a reasonable medical practitioner under similar circumstances would disclose in a manner permitting the client to make a knowledgeable decision.
9. Be informed by their providers of any potential direct or indirect effects, risks or hazards to the client or unborn or newborn infant which may merit consideration of alternative therapy.
10. Be informed, prior to the proposed therapy, not only of the benefits, risks and hazards of the proposed therapy, but also of known alternative therapies.
11. Determine for themselves, without pressure from their providers, whether they will accept the risk inherent in the proposed therapy of screening procedure or refuse the drug or procedure, and to be informed of the medical consequences of their actions.
12. Refuse to participate in experimental research or student education programs.
13. Voice grievances and recommend changes in policies and services to the Director of Midwifery at 718-336-4119 ext. 102, or the New York State Department of Health at 800-804-5447 without fear of reprisal.
14. File written complaints with the Midwifery Director of the Birth Center about any aspect of their care and/or file complaints with the State Education Department of Health, NYSDOH

Centralized Hospital Intake Program Mailstop: CA/DCS Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237 without fear of reprisal.

15. Be accompanied during the labor and birth process by someone whom they can look for emotional comfort and encouragement.
16. Privacy and confidentiality of all information and records pertaining to their treatment and care.
17. Approve or refuse the release or disclosure of the contents of their treatment and care.
18. Access their complete clinical records and to receive a copy upon payment of a reasonable fee pursuant to the provisions of Section 18, Subpart 50-3 of the Public Health law.
19. Be aware of all events that occur during birth, and of the client's and baby's continuing health care needs.

CLIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Clients have the responsibilities to:

1. Learn about the physical and psychological process of pregnancy, birth and postpartum recovery. Attendance at a child birth education course is required if not taken in the past.
2. Provide complete and accurate information regarding health history and lifestyle to their care provider.
3. Discuss the birth setting and assure that both partners are in agreement as to the chosen setting.
4. Arrange for a companion or support person to share in their plans for birth and to accompany them during the experience, including care at home for the first week.
5. Make preferences known clearly to her providers.
6. Obtain information in advance regarding the cost of their care.
7. Listen with an open mind to their chosen providers, just as they expect them to listen openly to them.
8. Learn about the client's and baby's continuing care needs after discharge through reading and attending required classes. This includes arranging for an appropriate infant care provider and for help with housework and childcare in the postpartum period.
9. Change their providers, if desired, and notify all concerned, well in advance of the birth if possible, and inform them of the reasons for the change.
10. Behave toward those caring for them with the same respect and consideration they themselves would like.
11. Put in writing constructive comments and feelings of satisfaction and/or dissatisfaction with the care provided.
12. Obtain information in advance regarding the approximate cost of maternity care and then meeting this financial commitment.
13. Permit standard testing including, but not limited to, glucose challenge testing and group B strep testing.
14. Complete an ultrasound to assess the anatomy of the fetus at or around 20 weeks gestation.
15. Attendance at a required breastfeeding class at 28 to 32 weeks gestation.
16. Attendance at a required group class known as "Dress Rehearsal" between 32 and 36 weeks gestation.