



BBC BOOKLET

Brooklyn Birthing Center (BBC) is the only licensed and accredited free-standing birthing center in the New York metro area since opening in 1999. The staff midwives provide services under the Brooklyn Midwifery Group (BMG), who are licensed midwives (LM) and certified nurse-midwives (CNM), provide full scope midwifery, including a range of women's health services including well woman care, routine gynecological care, family planning, and BRCA testing. The midwives of BMG practice the midwifery model of care which allows enhanced prenatal care visits, personal labor and delivery, newborn care and postpartum care.

BBC recently opened a sister extension birth center in Midtown named Jazz Birth Center of Manhattan (Jazz) in response to the emergency of the Covid-19 epidemic. Jazz conforms to the same organizational structure, philosophy, staffing, finances, and strict compliance with the Policies and Procedures approved under accreditation standards with the Commission for Accreditation of Birth Centers ([CABC](#)). Jazz intends to stay permanently in Manhattan.

Our Midwives

A midwife is a highly skilled professional practicing evidence based medicine while carrying on the centuries-old tradition of providing compassionate, sensitive, individualized and family centered care. A Licensed Midwife holds an undergraduate degree in nursing or another discipline and a graduate degree from an accredited midwifery program. As board certified, a midwife passes a rigorous examination administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB).

The BMG staff midwives at Brooklyn Birthing Center and Jazz Birth Center of Manhattan independently oversee the care of low risk clients and their newborns under the leadership of Jessica Henman, CNM, Midwife Director, Dr. James Ducey, Medical Director, and health care providers, available for consultation and referral, as needed.

Birth Center Model of Care Philosophy

The physiologic course of childbirth is a normal, healthy process and in a birth center it is unmedicated with minimal interventions to allow mom to move around liberally and enjoy her childbirth experience. The role of the midwife is to support and promote this normal process. Our team approach of two providers at each admission ensures that clients receive the best possible care.

Birthing out of the hospital demands an ongoing screening process throughout pregnancy to ensure mom is not deviating from the norm that may require her transfer of care from the BMG practice. In such an event, it will be addressed in a shared decision making process. We always prioritize the safety of our childbearing clients and their babies.

The birth center model allows all women 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 communities. Women and their families have the right and responsibility to assume an active role in their own health care. Required patient education is an essential part of our model, including lactation, childbirth education and preparation for birth. The free exchange of information between staff and clients empowers women and their families to make informed decisions about their care. Maternity care should honor and support family unity to include family members, including siblings, to be involved in the childbearing experience to whatever extent the client desires and allows.

Our Birthing Centers

Brooklyn Birthing Center

2183 Ocean Avenue,

Brooklyn, NY 11229

(718) 336-2849

www.brooklynbirthingcenter.com

Jazz Birth Center of Manhattan

940 8th Avenue (56/57th Street)

New York, NY 10019

(347) 374-4141

www.brooklynbirthingcenter.com

Consulting Obstetricians and Owners

Executive Physician, Co-Founder, President

Norma Veridiano, MD, JD, MBA

As co-founder of the Brooklyn Birthing Center in 1999, Norma Veridiano, MD. has guided and supported the birth center to births over 1500 babies. In the last 10 years, she has taken active executive positions in the leadership and oversight of the Brooklyn Midwifery Group, Brooklyn Birthing Center and Jazz Birth Center. She is a board certified OB/ GYN, recently retired from performing gyn surgery and her position as founding partner of a large private practice in Brooklyn. She has been awarded numerous awards in recognition of her care to women over decades, especially in her mission work globally. The award she is most proud of receiving is the American Association of Birth Centers ([AABC](#)) Professional Achievement Award in 2018, Texas, for her active contribution to the advancement of birth centers.

Medical Director
James Ducey, MD, FACOG

James Ducey, MD, Ob/Gyn is the Director of both the Division of Maternal / Fetal Medicine and the Center for Women's Health at Staten Island University Hospital (SIUH) North Shore LIJ. Many years ago, he began the protocol of not permitting an OB physician at SIUH to perform a primary elective cesarean section. He was convinced of what is now apparent— that the maternal mortality rate in the US is high because of the dramatic increase in unnecessary cesarean sections. Dr. Ducey is available 24/7 for consultation to the staff midwives. He is active in his review to ensure clients are eligible as good candidates to birth at the BBC and Jazz. When appropriate, Dr. Ducey co-manages high risk pregnancies with the staff midwives.

Interim Midwife Director
Jessica Henman, CNM, CPM



Jessica APRN, CNM, CPM, has been a nurse for over 20 years and received her Master's degree in Midwifery from Frontier Nursing University in 2010. Prior to becoming a midwife, Jessica worked internationally in humanitarian aid, practiced as a nurse in ER and cardiac surgery, and was a childbirth educator and doula. She owned and led her birth center in MO for more than 10 years. Jessica is very active in family and church life and supports the midwifery and mothering community through her role on the Boards of the Missouri Affiliate of the American College of Nurse Midwives and The Sparrows Nest Teen Maternity Home and as a mentor in the New Heights program. She has lived in St Louis for most of her life and loves being a wife and the mother of 3 big kids, spending time with them reading, making music, cooking and of course eating. Jessica is excited to be in NYC to fulfill a leadership role at BBC and Jazz Birth Center to give women safe and enriching birth options.

Financial Obligation of the BBC and Jazz BC Client

Medicaid

If you are eligible for Medicaid, you can apply through the New York State Marketplace or enrollment in an essential plan. Many New Yorkers who might not regularly qualify for Medicaid are, in fact, eligible during pregnancy because the income limit is higher and the unborn child counts as a dependent. All of our providers and the birth centers accept Medicaid and participate in most Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MMCO). Please check our website for details.

Baby's Insurance

Please be aware that your baby needs to be enrolled with Medicaid under your Medicaid membership for newborn benefit coverage of the first 30 days. 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. You should enroll your newborn in **your** MMCO soon after birth— coverage may not begin until the first of the month after you enroll your baby.

The senior staff midwife performs a well-baby exam at birth and a midwife performs a home visit for a follow up of mom and baby within 2-3 days. State mandated blood tests, hearing screens, and other exams are

performed. During Covid-19, however, alternate arrangements are planned for appropriate and timely testing at the pediatrician or birth center. These check-ups ensure the health and well-being of you and your baby.

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.

Insurance Plans

The BMG providers and the BBC facility are in network with many insurance plans. For your convenience, information is available on [our](#) website. It is our policy that all clients complete a Verification of Benefits form (VOB) through our agent billing service, Digital Billing, prior to the beginning of the second visit. Digital Billing charges \$25.00 for this service. They will provide you information of your anticipated out-of-pocket costs, such as co-pays and deductibles and assist you in obtaining an authorization, if required, and set up payment plan options.

Professional Fees of the Staff Midwives and Providers of Brooklyn Midwifery Group

The Brooklyn Midwifery Group (BMG) is the staff of midwives providing the professional care billing its standard rate of one maternity global fee (cpt 59400) that includes all prenatal care, labor and delivery in the birthing center, immediate postpartum care and 2 week and 6 week postpartum visits. The cost for the professional fee is \$4000. In the event you transfer out of BMG care during prenatal, labor, delivery or a hospital transfer when continuation of care may be to another professional, you will only be responsible for the care provided by BMG.

Facility Fee

The charge for the use of Brooklyn Birthing Center as a facility is a total fee for \$9,000 for mother and baby and \$10,000 for Jazz Birth Center.

For the Self-Paying Client

If you plan to pay out-of-pocket for services or participate in a prepaid shared health plan or have a large patient responsibility for balance billing, then you may select one of the following plans of payment and sign a separate financial policy confirming your agreement to pay in accordance with your choice:

PLAN A. Payment in full at time of first new ob appointment (2nd visit) discounted by \$1500.

PLAN B. Payment in full by 36 weeks pregnant discounted by \$1000 so long as installments are paid in the following schedule:

1. One-third payable by end of first trimester
2. One-third payable by end of second trimester
3. Remainder due by the beginning of the 36th week

For a Transferring Client

The charges of an interim facility charge may occur if you are triaged and admitted to BBC, you labor in the birth center, and there is a transfer of care, for any reason, prior to delivery. The interim facility charge is payable at \$2500 and covered by all insurances contracted with BBC. The ambulatory transport, if required, is covered by almost all insurances. In the event you are a self pay, the interim facility charge is included and the total will be adjusted for an appropriate partial refund.

STATEMENT OF CLIENT'S RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

The staff of the Brooklyn Birthing Center and Jazz Birth Center of Manhattan 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 centers and of the identity, qualifications and liability insurance status of care providers, 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 an 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. 202, 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 BBC and Jazz 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 childbirth 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 to 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.