

Beth Israel



Beth Israel OB-GYN

Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology at Beth Israel Medical Center

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Our Midwives

Since its inception more than 30 years ago, our Midwifery Services program has grown to become one of the largest services of its kind in New York State. Educated in two professional disciplines - nursing and midwifery - our midwives are all certified by the American College of Nurse Midwives. They manage normal labor and deliveries as well as offering a wide range of well-woman gynecological services.

Our gynecological services include:

- Routine physical exams
- Pap smears
- Breast exams

Our obstetrical services include:

- Family planning
- Prenatal care
- Labor and delivery
- Drug prescription
- Management of normal pregnancies
- Breastfeeding assistance

With a midwife, you can remain at home as long as possible. Your midwife will coach you over the phone through the beginning of labor until you arrive at the hospital. At that point, she will stay with you and manage your pregnancy through your delivery. If the midwife needs assistance at any time, Beth Israel physicians are stationed on the labor floor around-the-clock to help.

Meet our Midwives

Rochelle Lipshutz



Rochelle Lipshutz attended the State University of New York at Downstate for her midwifery certification. She has been a part of the Beth Israel Ob/Gyn Midwifery Associates since 1989 and has been its director since 1999. As director, she has significantly contributed to developing the BIMC Midwifery Practice into a family-centered, comprehensive, maternal-child health.

Joyce Griffin, a graduate of Columbia University's Midwifery Program, joined the Beth Israel Ob/Gyn Midwifery Associates in 1991. She incorporates her studies and interests in holistic and natural therapies to bring a unique focus to childbirth preparation.

Joyce Griffin



Jacqueline Lewis



Jacqueline Lewis began her career as a midwife in England in 1988. Her U.S. career started in 1994 when she became a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Jacqueline joined Beth Israel Ob/Gyn Midwifery Associates in 1994. She has experience in family planning, obstetrical and gynecological areas.

Susan Haas



Susan Haas started her midwifery career at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, and joined Beth Israel Ob/Gyn Midwifery Associates in 1994. She also has experience as a Labor & Delivery nurse, and has held a variety of nursing positions since 1981.

Melissa Peard



Melissa E. Peard, CNM

Office hours vary Monday-Friday 9a-5p.
Please contact 212-844-8590 for availability
Nurse: Lissy Palackamannil 212-844-8590

Melissa graduated Rutgers College of Nursing in 2004 and went on to practice high risk perinatal nursing at NYU Langone Medical Center for 5 years. She completed her Masters of Science in Midwifery at NYU College of Nursing and is certified by the AMCB. Melissa joined the Midwifery Associates in 2009 and practices full scope, well-women OB/GYN care.

Michele Handelman, CNM
Photo Coming Soon

Michele Handelman is a masters trained certified nurse midwife and family nurse practitioner, graduated from Pace University and Frontier School of Midwifery and Family Nursing. She has been providing care focused on physiologic birth since 1990. She rejoined the Beth Israel family in 2012 after 12 years caring for families in the Bronx. Michele has special experience and interests in adolescent health, HIV care and international public health.

Michele Handelman MS, FNP, CNM
Beth Israel Midwifery
Department of Ob/Gyn
Mount Sinai Beth Israel

Dr. Sarah Morocco
Photo Coming Soon

Dr. Nora Doty
Photo Coming Soon

Dr. Nora Doty received her medical degree from UMDNJ – Robert Wood Johnson. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Mount Sinai Beth Israel, where she received an award for Special Excellence in Endoscopy from the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists (AAGL). She practices general obstetrics and gynecology with clinical interests in contraception, family planning and minimally invasive gynecologic surgery. She is a junior fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the Society of Family Planning.

