What is a Midwife?

Today’s professional midwife is educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery, and cares for women from preconception to post-menopause. To become certified, midwives must complete a course of study in a program accredited by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) and pass a certification exam administered by the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB). Midwives are also licensed by New York State.

Our midwives hold master’s degrees from such universities as Columbia, Georgetown, Yale, University of Michigan, SUNY Stonybrook, the Oregon Health and Science University and the University of Rochester. All are faculty members of the University of Rochester School of Medicine.

If you think a midwife is the right health professional to care for you, we would be happy to meet with you. A free consultation is offered. Office hours are available daily by appointment at our two convenient sites.

Our fees are covered by most insurance companies. If you do not have health insurance, talk to us about financial assistance. To make an appointment, or for more information, please call 585.487.3330 or visit us at midwifery.urmc.edu.

For centuries, women have looked to midwives to advise and assist them in childbirth. Today’s midwife carries on this tradition by combining professional skills with individualized and personal reproductive health care for women of all ages.
During labor and birth
Within the calm, friendly atmosphere of Highland Hospital’s Family Maternity Center, we offer a special approach to pregnancy and childbirth, helping families achieve a safe, personalized and fulfilling birth experience. We will be with you throughout your labor and birth to offer you emotional and physical support. We make every effort to help you achieve the kind of birth you want. Should you or your baby need specialized care, we have immediate access to Highland’s fine staff of maternal-fetal medicine specialists, obstetricians, neonatologists, pediatricians, anesthesiologists, and nurse anesthetists.

After your baby is born
We will help you with breast feeding and infant care. We also provide your postnatal office care and GYN visits.

Women’s health care
We can advise you about reproductive health, contraception and pregnancy planning. We provide yearly breast and pelvic exams, pap smears and STI testing. In addition, we provide basic primary care including screening for cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes and thyroid disease. We treat urinary tract and upper respiratory infections.

During pregnancy
We will diagnose your pregnancy, provide counseling, and monitor your health and that of your baby throughout your pregnancy. We help you with nutrition, exercise, choosing a childbirth method and preparing for parenthood.