

## **Medicaid Inpatient Hospital Spell of Illness Policy Extension for COVID-19 Ending**

**The COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) is ending on May 11, 2023.**

The federal government declared a public health emergency (PHE) in January 2020 in response to COVID-19. Due to the PHE, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) allowed certain temporary flexibilities in Medicaid.

The federal PHE ends on May 11, 2023.

**You may be impacted by the end of the inpatient hospital spell of illness policy extension.**

This extension allows certain Medicaid members to receive inpatient hospital care for COVID-19 or a related diagnosis for up to 30 additional days beyond the existing limit of 30 days. This flexibility has been for Medicaid members who are:

- A STAR Health member age 21 or older; or
- A STAR+PLUS member.

HHSC will also be ending the flexibility waiving the \$200,000 benefit limitation for COVID-19-related inpatient hospital stays, which applies to some members who remain in STAR Health after their twenty-first birthday.

These flexibilities will no longer be effective for COVID-19-related inpatient hospital stays with an admission date on or after May 12, 2023.

### **Need help?**

If you have questions or need help, call (866) 449-6849, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., central time.