Spell-of-Illness Limitation to Apply to STAR+PLUS Clients
Effective September 1, 2013

Information posted September 6, 2013

Effective for dates of admission on or after September 1, 2013, the spell-of-illness limitation will apply to clients in the STAR+PLUS Program. A spell-of-illness is defined as 30 days of inpatient hospital care, which may accrue intermittently or consecutively. After 30 days of inpatient care is provided, reimbursement for additional inpatient care is not considered until the client has been out of an acute care facility for 60 consecutive days.

An individual may be discharged from and readmitted to a hospital several times, regardless of the admittance reasons, and still be considered to be in the same spell of illness if 60 days have not elapsed between discharge and readmission.

The following are exceptions to the spell-of-illness limitation:

• A prior-approved solid organ transplant has an additional 30-day spell of illness, which begins on the date of the transplant.
• No spell-of-illness limitation exists for THSteps-eligible clients who are 20 years of age and younger when a medically necessary condition exists.
• The client is enrolled in the Medicaid managed care STAR program.

For more information, call the TMHP Contact Center at 1-800-925-9126.