

<b>Case Number:</b>	CM13-0016608		
<b>Date Assigned:</b>	03/26/2014	<b>Date of Injury:</b>	11/24/2009
<b>Decision Date:</b>	06/30/2014	<b>UR Denial Date:</b>	07/24/2013
<b>Priority:</b>	Standard	<b>Application Received:</b>	08/26/2013

### HOW THE IMR FINAL DETERMINATION WAS MADE

MAXIMUS Federal Services sent the complete case file to an expert reviewer. He/she has no affiliation with the employer, employee, providers or the claims administrator. The expert reviewer is Board Certified in Occupational Medicine and is licensed to practice in California. He/she has been in active clinical practice for more than five years and is currently working at least 24 hours a week in active practice. The expert reviewer was selected based on his/her clinical experience, education, background, and expertise in the same or similar specialties that evaluate and/or treat the medical condition and disputed items/services. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

The expert reviewer developed the following clinical case summary based on a review of the case file, including all medical records:

The applicant is a represented [REDACTED] employee who has filed a claim for traumatic arthropathy of the knee reportedly associated with an industrial injury of November 24, 2009. Thus far, the applicant has been treated with analgesic medications, attorney representation, transfer of care to and from various providers in various specialties, total knee arthroplasty, continuous passive motion device and unspecified amounts of physical therapy. In a Utilization Review Report of July 24, 2013, the claims administrator denied a request for EPOGEN injections, stating that the applicant had no evidence of anemia. The applicant's attorney subsequently appealed. A February 10, 2014 progress note is notable for comments that the applicant has chronic knee pain status post total knee arthroplasty on May 15, 2013. The applicant has reportedly lost 50 pounds on a [REDACTED] Weight Loss Program. The applicant is again placed off of work, on total temporary disability. Also reviewed is a venous duplex ultrasound of July 10, 2013, negative for any evidence of a deep venous thrombosis.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

The Final Determination was based on decisions for the disputed items/services set forth below:

#### **10 EPOGEN INJECTIONS 1000/ML: Upheld**

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not cite any medical evidence for its decision.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation Physicians' Drug Reference (PDR), Epogen Topic

**Decision rationale:** The California MTUS does not address the topic of Epogen (erythropoietin). As noted in the Physicians' Drug Reference (PDR), Epogen is indicated in the treatment of anemia due to chronic kidney disease; anemia due to malignancy; anemia due to HIV or anemia due to various other disease processes. In this case, however, there is no specific mention of the applicant's being anemic. No blood tests were provided suggesting that the applicant was anemic, HIV positive, had chronic kidney disease, etc. Therefore, the request is not medically necessary as the information on file does not support the proposition that the applicant carries a disease process such as anemia, chronic renal insufficiency, etc. for which usage of Epogen injections would be indicated.