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| <b>Case Number:</b>   | CM15-0106089 |                              |            |
| <b>Date Assigned:</b> | 06/10/2015   | <b>Date of Injury:</b>       | 04/09/2012 |
| <b>Decision Date:</b> | 07/13/2015   | <b>UR Denial Date:</b>       | 05/06/2015 |
| <b>Priority:</b>      | Standard     | <b>Application Received:</b> | 06/02/2015 |

### 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. 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/Service. He/she is familiar with governing laws and regulations, including the strength of evidence hierarchy that applies to Independent Medical Review determinations.

The Expert Reviewer has the following credentials:  
State(s) of Licensure: California, Indiana, New York  
Certification(s)/Specialty: Internal Medicine

### CLINICAL CASE SUMMARY

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

This 45 year old male sustained an industrial injury on 4/9/12. He subsequently reported hand injury and pain. Diagnoses include infection of hand, type 2 diabetes and end stage renal disease. Treatments to date include lab testing, amputation surgery, physical therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy and prescription medications. The injured worker continues to experience post surgical right hand pain. Upon examination, the injured worker is alert and oriented and has well healed surgical incisions. A request for Hemodialysis 160 units three times a week for one year was made by the treating physician.

### IMR ISSUES, DECISIONS AND RATIONALES

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

**Hemodialysis 160 units three times a week for one year:** Upheld

**Claims Administrator guideline:** The Claims Administrator did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation American Society of Nephrology.

**MAXIMUS guideline:** The Expert Reviewer did not base their decision on the MTUS. Decision based on Non-MTUS Citation  
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/patientinstructions/000707.htm>.

**Decision rationale:** Pursuant to Medline plus, Hemodialysis 160 units, three times a week, times one year is not medically necessary. Dialysis treats end-stage kidney failure. It removes waste from your blood when your kidneys can no longer do their job. In this case, the injured workers working diagnoses are end stage renal disease; and type II diabetes mellitus. The requesting physician is a [REDACTED] (nephrologist). There is no documentation from the treating nephrologist. There is a dialysis clinic note that indicates the injured worker has been undergoing dialysis three times per week for several weeks. The request for authorization is dated April 17, 2015. There is no discussion in the medical record establishing a causal relationship of the industrial injury to receiving hemodialysis three times weekly. The request for authorization is asking for hemodialysis three times weekly for one year. Hemodialysis with catheter maintenance requires, at a minimum, follow-up visits once every three months. Laboratories need to be checked and intermittent physical examinations need to be performed. There is no documentation from the treating provider in the medical record regarding clinical indication or rationale for hemodialysis three times per week for 12 months. Consequently, absent clinical documentation from the treating nephrologist, with a clinical rationale for hemodialysis for 12 months, a causal relationship between dialysis and the work related injury, Hemodialysis 160 units, three times a week, times one year is not medically necessary.