



SAFHIS
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THE PULSE

NEWSLETTER FOR SARAWAK FOREIGNERS HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEM



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Welcome to **The Pulse**,

A quarterly newsletter to inform healthcare professionals on the Sarawak Foreigners Health Information System (SAFHIS). We are pleased to introduce this inaugural edition of The Pulse, your dedicated source for the latest updates, insights, and developments on SAFHIS.

Latest in SAFHIS

SAFHIS serves as Sarawak’s centralised online platform to enhance the management of foreigners’ medical data, as part of Sarawak’s health ecosystem. Developed in compliance with Sarawak Health Department (JKNS) regulations, the system streamlines the storing, certifying, and authenticating of non-resident employee’s (NREs) medical records in real time. By centralising health data management, SAFHIS enables better forecasting of healthcare needs, allowing the Sarawak Government to develop more effective public health policies.

Policy Updates on Medical Screening

Under SAFHIS’ policy, all NREs must undergo mandatory medical screenings at registered SAFHIS Panel Medical Facilities. Solely SAFHIS-verified medical reports will be accepted as proof of undergoing a medical screening test, allowing for employment in Sarawak. Currently, we are aiming to expand this process to include other categories of non-Sarawakians.

Ensuring a healthy workforce is key to public health and workplace safety in Sarawak. Employers and employees must comply with these requirements to proceed with employment applications. The medical screening test includes:

 <p>Blood Test 01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIV Antibody (ELISA) Filariasis IgG/igM • HBsAG Leishmania Serology (For workers from Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka) • Anti-HCV • Syphilis Test • Malaria Parasite Fasting Blood Sugar 	 <p>Urine Examination 02</p> <p>Routine Examination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour • Specific gravity • Sugar <p>Urine Drug Test</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opiates • Cannabis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albumin • Microscopic Examination • Amphetamine 	
 <p>Slit Skin Smear 03</p>	 <p>Sputum AFB 04 (if indicated)</p>	 <p>Serum Creatinine 05 (For workers with a history of Renal Disease, Hypertension and Diabetes Mellitus)</p>
 <p>Rectal Swab 06 (For food handlers)</p>		 <p>Chest X-Ray 07 (Valid for 6 months)</p>



Importance of Pre-employment Medical Screening

By ensuring that non-Sarawakian employees are medically fit before contributing to the Sarawak foreigners health ecosystem, SAFHIS helps prevent disease outbreaks in Sarawak through early detection. Medical screenings also help protect local workers, as foreigners employed in Sarawak who undergo health checks are less likely to introduce communicable diseases into the workforce.

Other pre-employment medical screening benefits include:



Health Challenges Among Foreign Workers

Many non-Sarawakian employees arrive from regions where communicable diseases remain prevalent, making early detection crucial to protecting Sarawak's workforce. Some commonly detected diseases among non-Sarawakian employees in Malaysia ^[1] include:

- **Tuberculosis (TB):** A highly-infectious disease that affects the lungs, and remains a serious public health issue among foreign workers, particularly those from high-burden countries such as Indonesia, the Philippines, and Myanmar^[1]. If left untreated, TB can lead to severe respiratory illness, long-term disability, and transmission within workplaces.
- **Malaria:** Imported cases persist due to the arrival of non-Sarawakian employees from malaria-endemic countries. The construction, plantation, and agriculture sectors are particularly vulnerable due to outdoor working environments that expose workers to mosquitoes^[1].
- **Leprosy:** Cases remain prevalent among migrant workers, particularly in Sabah and Pahang^[1]. The disease affects the skin, nerves, and respiratory system, leading to permanent disabilities if not treated early.

^[1]Mohd Putera NWS, Azman AS, Mohd Zain SN, Yahaya H, Lewis JW, Sahimin N. Current status of infectious diseases among migrants and non-citizens in Malaysia. cabidigitallibrary. Published June 30, 2023. Accessed March 10, 2025. <https://www.cabidigitallibrary.org/doi/pdf/10.5555/20230307809>



Technical Updates

The Electronic Medical Report (EMR) within SAFHIS enforces a standardised, regulated, and audited medical screening process for all non-Sarawakian employees in Sarawak. This process ensures compliance with JKNS' regulations and national healthcare laws, specifically the Private Healthcare Facilities & Services Act 1998 (Act 586).

1. Standardisation of Medical Screening

- The EMR enables uniform screening procedures across all facilities, ensuring consistent health assessments.
- EMR contains predefined health check items, which must be conducted for every worker.

2. Compliance & Data Integrity

- Medical facilities must digitally record screening results in the EMR, preventing manual errors and inconsistencies.
- Only authorised healthcare professionals registered with SAFHIS can input and verify health data.
- The EMR ensures that medical reports cannot be altered, falsified, or manipulated once submitted.

3. Integration with Immigration & Labour Authorities

- The EMR system enables real-time access to medical screening results for government agencies managing foreign worker permits.
- Only workers who pass the required health criteria will be cleared for work permit approval.
- Enhances decision-making efficiency for the Immigration and Labour Management Unit (ILMU).

Advantages of Digitisation





Upcoming SAFHIS Activities

We are excited to announce upcoming training sessions for registered SAFHIS Panel Medical Facilities in Miri, Bintulu, Limbang, and Lawas set for the second half of April. The training sessions aim to educate healthcare professionals on system usage, compliance requirements, and best practices on medical reporting.

Meanwhile throughout the year, SAFHIS will be conducting quality audits to ensure adherence to medical screening standards and system compliance to strengthen the Sarawak foreigners health ecosystem.

Moving Forward

SAFHIS is more than just a compliance requirement; it's a step toward a healthier, more productive Sarawak. By working together, we can ensure a safer work environment, reduce healthcare burdens, and protect public health.

Stay informed, stay compliant, and let's shape Sarawak's health together.

Best regards,
SAFHIS Specialist Squad
"Every Screening Counts"



System owned by The Sarawak Government 

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