

[DONATE](#)[VOLUNTEER](#)[DONATE](#)[VOLUNTEER](#)[Q Search...](#)

# just five dollars

August 25th, 2023 | [Articles](#), [Facts](#), [research](#), [analysis](#)



*A worker gets his temperature taken*

From April 2022, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) required employers to purchase a [Primary Care Plan \(PCP\)](#) for Work Permit or S-Pass holders who stay in dormitories or are in construction, marine or process sectors. The PCP is meant to provide these migrant workers with affordable access to primary healthcare.

A year on, we wanted to investigate how PCP was being perceived by the Bangladeshi migrant worker population, and their experiences in accessing these services.

› [Thoughtless zoning and a dorm in the middle of nowhere](#)

10 October 2023

› [After a worker is hurt, all goes smoothly until...](#)

10 September 2023

› [Why do Bangladeshis choose to work in Singapore?](#)

5 September 2023

› [Work injury paralegal taken to court over insurance monies](#)

1 September 2023

› [“One room sleeping 26 man”](#)

27 August 2023

› [Getting sick can cost more than just five dollars](#)

25 August 2023

› [After a worker is hurt, the mirage of](#)

arrangement under which that they were able to visit certain clinics and pay only five dollars per visit. Such information was usually passed from fellow workers or friends, and there seemed to be no structured way for this information to come from the government or employers to them. So, potentially, misinformation and misunderstanding can spread.

Our study respondents generally had a positive perception of PCP, mostly on account of its affordability. Many respondents in fact got reimbursed by employers the \$5 that they had to pay at the clinic though 56% said they were not.

However, they also expressed two key difficulties faced when visiting the doctor, namely, the English language barrier and long waiting times at the clinics. Moreover, there was the enduring fear that if one visited the doctor too often, the risk of not getting renewal for one's work permit would be heightened. In that sense, seeing a doctor costs more than five dollars; it can cost a worker his job.

PCP is closely linked with and accessible through MOM's FWMOMCare app, but not all the workers we polled were aware of this, even though a large majority of the survey respondents said they had the app on their phones. The app would help with booking appointments, telemedicine services, and locating the nearest medical centre. However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the app was mostly used to access their vaccination records, so, many workers still associated it with Covid and were unaware of the other available features.

Our study had two parts: firstly, an online survey built on Google forms and disseminated via TWC2's Bengali-language Facebook page. We obtained 227 valid responses.

The second phase comprised two face-to-face focus group discussions with nine Bangladeshi migrant workers where we shared our preliminary survey results with them to seek their further inputs for interpreting the data we had obtained.

The report in PDF (29 pages) can be downloaded by clicking on the icon at right.



> [Payslips law widely flouted, hardly any enforcement](#)

14 August 2023

> [Food as power tools](#)

9 August 2023

> [MC money not paid. Again.](#)

5 August 2023

## Tags

[Abuse & bullying](#)

[Accident reporting](#)

[Advocacy](#)

[Confinement](#)

[Criminal charges](#)

[Domestic work](#)

[Donations](#)

[Economics of migration](#)

[ECT](#)

[Family](#)

[featured](#)

[Food](#)

[Forced repatriation](#)

[Housing](#)

[Illness](#)

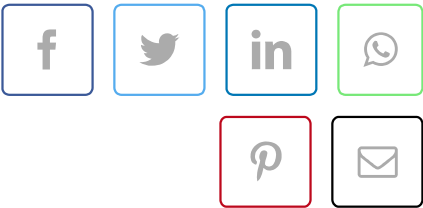
[Job mobility](#)

[Kickback](#)

[Labour court](#)



Share This Post With Others!



Lawyers

MC & light duty

MC wages

Media interest

Medical costs

Medical interaction

Medical treatment

MOM processes

Placement agents & fees

Police processes

Politics and policies

Recruitment

Repatriation agents

Rest day

Salary & deduction

Society & socialisation

Survey & statistics

TADM

Trafficking

Training

Transfer

Volunteers

WICA & medical insurance

WICA validity

Work safety



Who We Are ▾

What We Do ▾

Articles ▾

News ▾

Lexicon ▾

Get Involved ▾

Find Us

A 中 ৳ ৳ ▾

 transient workers count too

 [instagram.com/twc2sg](https://www.instagram.com/twc2sg)

 [twitter.com/twc2sg](https://twitter.com/twc2sg)

It takes only a few  
seconds

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

DONATE

VOLUNTEER

© 2023 Transient Workers Count too. Website crafted by Pixel Mechanics

