



History, examination, CXR and spirometry

Suspected lung cancer?

Red flag symptoms?  
Abnormal CXR?

Staging CT chest +  
2ww referral

Evidence of chronic lung disease?

ILD?  
- Fine creps  
- SOB  
- Restrictive spiro

HRCT chest +  
OP referral if confirmed

Bronchiectasis?  
- Daily sputum  
- Recurrent LRTIs

Manage through Practice nurse

COPD or asthma  
- Obstructive spiro

REASSURE!

Productive?

Dry?

ACEi?

Switch to A2R permanently

GORD?

Omeprazole 20mg bd, Ranitidine 300mg nocte &  
Maxalon 10mg tds for 8/52

Cough variant asthma?

Clenil 100mcg 2 puffs bd via spacer for 8/52

Post nasal drip?

Sinus rinse & intranasal  
steroids for 8/52 +/- ENT  
referral

Bronchiectasis?

HRCT thorax. If  
bronchiectasis confirmed  
refer

# Chronic Cough – Benign causes

## ACEi

Seen in 20% of patients given ACEi  
Onset at any time  
Median time to resolution 26 days but can be up to 40 weeks  
Can accentuate cough from another cause

## GORD

Postural cough  
On phonation  
Related to food  
Associated voice change  
Dyspepsia – but not always  
PMH Hiatus hernia / ↑ BMI

## Cough variant asthma

Nocturnal cough  
Diurnal pattern  
Other asthma symptoms (wheeze) and risk factors not always present

## Post nasal drip

Nocturnal cough  
Productive cough  
Throat clearing  
Nasal congestion  
Sensation of nasal secretions at back of throat  
PMH Polyps/Sinus disease