# Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service

## Clinical Information Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Condition</th>
<th>Chronic cough</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Eligibility</strong></td>
<td>Cough for more than 6 months</td>
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<td><strong>Priority</strong></td>
<td>Fax a referral to the RAH on (08) 8222 5398 or TQEH on (08) 82227244.</td>
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</table>
| **Differential Diagnosis** | Medications eg ACE-inhibitors  
Upper airway e.g. paranasal sinus disease, laryngeal disease  
GORD  
Asthma  
Endobronchial TB/ sarcoid/ malignancy/ inhaled foreign body  
Heart failure  
Lung disease |

## Information required with referral

**History:**
- Nature, duration, timing and severity of cough  
- Response to bronchodilators  
- Other symptoms: respiratory (sputum, haemoptysis, breathlessness, wheeze), post-nasal drip, GORD, history of atopy, symptoms of heart failure  
- Anxiety  
- Smoking, diet, medications, allergies, occupation, pets

Other medical and allied health practitioners the patient has seen concerning this problem.

**Exam:**
- Clubbing, hoarse or nasal speech  
- Movement of chest, percussion note, auscultation, pulse oximetry  
- Signs of heart failure

## Investigations required with referral

**Consider:**
- Detailed lung function (spirometry, gas transfer, lung volumes, arterial blood gas)  
- HRCT chest  
- Echocardiogram, ECG  
- CBE, biochemistry, thyroid function, antinuclear antibody

## Pre-Referral management strategies (include with referral)

- If on ACE-inhibitor, replace with an alternative agent  
- Trial of treatment for GORD  
- Address sinus / upper airway disease  
- Treat asthma with Inhaled cortico-steroids

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**For more information**

Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service  
Royal Adelaide Hospital, North Terrace ADELAIDE Telephone: 08 8222 4000  
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, 28 Woodville Road, WOODVILLE Telephone: 08 8222 6000

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