

## Fact sheet

# Central Adelaide Respiratory and Sleep (Thoracic) Medicine Service

## Clinical Information Sheet

Clinical Condition	Chronic cough
Eligibility	Cough for more than 6 months
Priority	Fax a referral to the RAH on (08) 8222 5398 or TQEH on (08) 82227244.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nature, duration, timing and severity of cough</li><li>• Response to bronchodilators</li><li>• Other symptoms: respiratory (sputum, haemoptysis, breathlessness, wheeze), post-nasal drip, GORD, history of atopy, symptoms of heart failure</li><li>• Anxiety</li><li>• Smoking, diet, medications, allergies, occupation, pets</li></ul> Other medical and allied health practitioners the patient has seen concerning this problem.  Exam: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clubbing, hoarse or nasal speech</li><li>• Movement of chest, percussion note, auscultation, pulse oximetry</li><li>• Signs of heart failure</li></ul>
Investigations required with referral	Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Detailed lung function (spirometry, gas transfer, lung volumes, arterial blood gas)</li><li>• HRCT chest</li><li>• Echocardiogram, ECG</li><li>• CBE, biochemistry, thyroid function, antinuclear antibody</li></ul>
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

### 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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