Chronic Respiratory Infection including Bronchiectasis

- Bronchiectasis is defined as
  - Abnormal permanent dilatation of bronchi
  - Often associated with recurrent infection, chronic cough or sputum retention

Note:
Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is not treated at RGH, FMC or NH. Referrals for CF should be directed to Women’s and Children’s Hospital or Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Information Required
- Duration of symptoms
- Other co-morbidities
- Any ICU/HDU admissions
- Medication list
- Smoking status
- History if childhood infections
- Recurrent respiratory infections
- Haemoptysis

Investigations Required
- Sputum MCS
- Sputum Acid Fast Bacilli (AFB)
- Chest X-ray
- CBP
- LFT, ELU, glucose

Fax Referrals to
FMC Outpatient Clinic Fax: (08) 8204 6105 (Clinic B)
Noarlunga GP Plus Fax: (08) 8384 9711

Red Flags
Red flags should prompt immediate referral to Emergency Department
- Acute exacerbation with respiratory failure
- Features of acute intercurrent infection (e.g. fever, pulmonary infiltrate)
- Large volume haemoptysis

Suggested GP Management
- Chest physiotherapy and sputum clearance techniques (use of devices like acapella)
- Antibiotic treatment guided by sputum culture

Clinical Resources

General Information to assist with referrals and the Referral templates for FMC and Noarlunga GP Plus are available to download from the SALHN Outpatient Services website www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/SALHNoutpatients.