

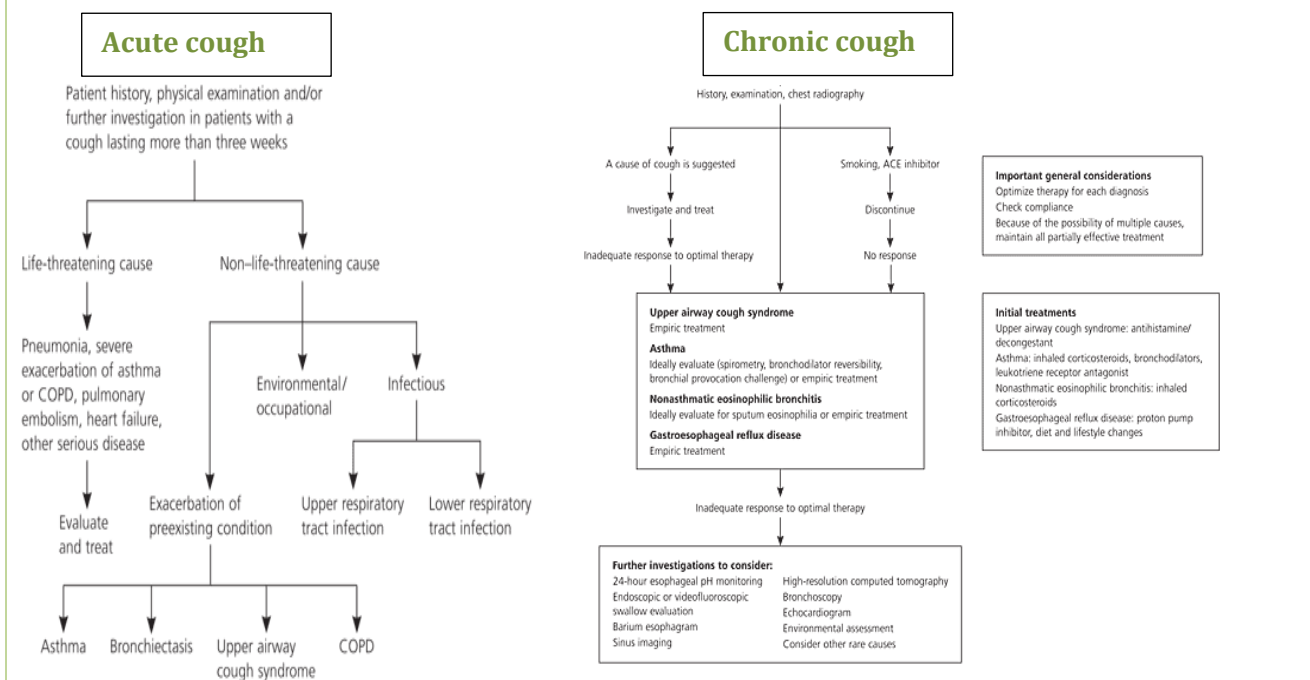
Cough Clinical Practice Guidelines

Definition

Cough is one of the most common presenting symptoms in primary care. It is responsible for approximately 30 million clinician visits annually in the United States. Cough can be one of the symptoms that lead to a diagnosis, or it could be the only symptom in an undifferentiated patient.

A cough is a reaction to irritation anywhere from the pharynx to the lungs. It is divided into three categories: acute (less than three weeks), subacute (three to eight weeks), and chronic (more than eight weeks).

Assessment (History and Examination)



Management

The treatment of the two conditions is different. Therefore, underlying the severe pathology needs to be excluded from a careful history and specific tests and clues in the history. The majority of chronic cough is due to GERD, Bronchoconstriction, or Postnasal drip.

Referral to the pulmonologist to consider bronchoscopy or further studies if red flags are present or symptoms continue after empiric treatment for common problems for their full treatment duration

- Age >50 years
- Smoking history
- Asbestos exposure
- Persistent cough
- Overseas travel
- TB exposure
- Hemoptysis
- Unexplained weight loss
- Dyspnea



APPROVL			
	Name:	Position:	Signature:
Prepared By:	Dr. Abrar AlLafi	FM Senior Registrar	
Reviewed and Approved By:	Dr. Mansoor Allajhar Dr. Musa Althwayee Dr. Ahmed Al Zahrani Dr. Hajar Al Suma Dr. Ahlam Al Harbi	FM Consultants	

Adopted from: AAFP

