# Priority Topic: COUGH

## Key Features:

*This topic is all about diagnosing causes of cough*

For a single source of info on this topic: (covers peds and adult!)

**Chronic Cough: Evaluation and Management AAFP 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. In patients presenting with an acute cough:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Include serious causes (e.g., pneumothorax, pulmonary embolism [PE]) in the differential diagnosis.</td>
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<td>b) Diagnose a viral infection clinically, principally by taking an appropriate history.</td>
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<td>c) Do not treat viral infections with antibiotics. (Consider antiviral therapy if appropriate.)</td>
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*What you should study: see also: Priority Topic URTI*

- ✔ Une toux rebelle MduQ 2016
- ✔ Acute Cough in Adults 2014 Tables 2 and 3
- ✔ Acute Cough in Children CFP 2011

| 2. In pediatric patients with a persistent (or recurrent) cough, generate a broad differential diagnosis (e.g., gastroesophageal reflux disease [GERD], asthma, rhinitis, presence of a foreign body, pertussis). |

*What you should study:*

- ✔ Chronic Cough: Evaluation and Management AAFP 2017
- ✔ Chronic Cough Algorithm in Children AAP 2013
3. In patients with a persistent (e.g., for weeks) cough:

   a) Consider non-pulmonary causes (e.g., GERD, congestive heart failure, rhinitis), as well as other serious causes (e.g., cancer, PE) in the differential diagnosis. (Do not assume that the child has viral bronchitis).

   b) Investigate appropriately.

**What you should study:**

✓ Chronic Cough: Evaluation and Management AAFP 2017
✓ Delayed onset Antibiotic Rx for New-Onset Cough POEM AAFP 2018

4. Do not ascribe a persistent cough to an adverse drug effect (e.g., from an angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor) without first considering other causes.

✓ Just do it!

5. In smokers with persistent cough, assess for chronic bronchitis (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and make a positive diagnosis when it is present. (Do not just diagnose a smoker’s cough.)

**What you should study:**

✓ see Priority Topic Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease