Appendix 2: Protocol for the evaluation of chronic cough in an adult (Part 1)

Boxes 1-4 are shown in Part 2

**Phase 1**

Stop ACE-I and consider alternative to ACE-I
Review in 3 months

Trial of therapy

Assess treatment response (box 2)

Cough resolved

Cough still present

**History and physical examination**

Chest radiograph
Spirometry + reversibility testing
Home PEF recording (spirometry unavailable)

Any obvious primary pulmonary pathology?

YES

NO

Is patient taking an ACE-I?

YES

NO

Symptoms suggesting potential aggravants (see box 1)

YES

NO

Referral to secondary care/specialist cough clinic

Is patient currently taking any therapy for cough?

YES

NO

STOP THERAPY

Assess treatment response (box 2)

Cough worse

Cough persists

Reintroduce therapy, ensure compliance, maximise dose and consider additional diagnosis

**Phase 2**

Assess treatment response (box 2)

Positive test

YES

NO

Trial of therapy

Additional investigations (box 4)

Assess treatment response (see Box 2)

Partial resolution

Complete resolution

Consider an additional diagnosis acting simultaneously

Diagnostic testing (box 3)

1. Asthma / asthma like syndromes
2. GORD
3. Upper airway disorders

YES

NO

Trial of therapy

Assess treatment response (box 2)

Cough still present

Cough resolved

Consider an additional diagnosis acting simultaneously

Evaluate treatment response (box 2)

Partial resolution

Complete resolution

Manage according to recommended treatment guidelines

Assess treatment response (box 2)

Cough still present

Cough resolved

Stop therapy

Assess treatment response (box 2)

Cough worse

Cough persists

Reintroduce therapy, ensure compliance, maximise dose and consider additional diagnosis