

## WHAT IS COUGH?

Cough is the result of inflammation and/or irritation of the airways in the lungs, as well as sometimes the lung tissue itself.

## WHAT CAUSES COUGH?

This can be due to disease that originates from within the respiratory system (lungs and airways) itself, heart disease, and sometimes due to gastrointestinal disease (acid reflux).

## WHAT TESTS ARE USED TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF COUGH?

Several tests are typically performed to try and differentiate between these causes. These can include:

- Bloodwork to assess overall health
- Radiographs of the chest
- Sonogram of the heart (echocardiogram)
- Bronchoscopy (camera that looks down the windpipe) with concurrent airway sampling. These are usually required when a patient has had a cough for longer than a month and especially if they have been having trouble breathing.

## WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS WITH COUGH?

Treatment and prognosis are largely depended on the underlying cause of the cough. This can sometimes require life-long therapy.