Child with chronic cough who fulfils inclusion criteria

Assess for presence of specific pointers

Presence of ‘specific cough pointers’

Yes

No

CXR and Spirometry (if >3-6 years old) abnormal

Yes

See specific cough (fig 2)

No

Antibiotics (AB) ⇒ R/v at end of 2 week course

Resolved

Persistent?

Yes

Repeat AB course if cough is still wet then review

If still persistent

No

Protracted bronchitis

Foreign body inhalation?

Rhino-sinusitis Rx

Tic cough-functional disorders

Croupy cough- tracheomalacia

Staccato cough – Chlamydia

Rx if any present else

Watch, wait and review

(watchful waiting) AND

Evaluate and address: 1. Tobacco smoke and other pollutants

2. Child’s activity, parental expectations and concerns

Review in 2-3 weeks

resolving

‘specific cough pointers’

resolved

persistent cough

Natural resolution

Discuss options with parents

Review in 2-3 weeks

Cough resolving?

yes

no

Follow-up to ensure resolution

Natural resolution

Trial of therapy

Dry cough

ICS (400ug/day budesonide equivalent)

Wet cough

As above on wet cough

Review in 2-3 weeks

Cough resolving?

yes

no

Review points 1-2

Specific cough pointers present? See fig. 2

Consider trial of therapy

Asthma or asthma-like illness

Cease ICS in 2 wks and review if no other features of asthma; consider ‘period effect’