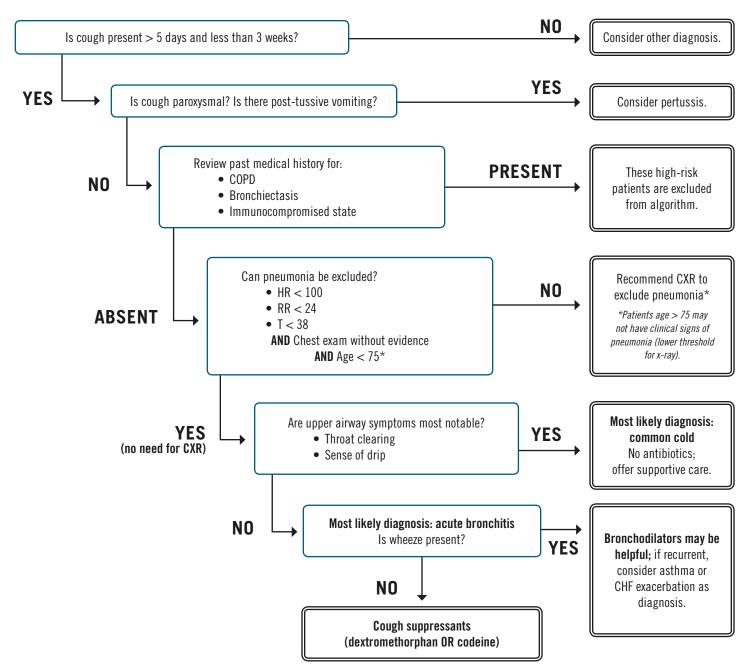
Sample Adult Acute Bronchitis Algorithm

Provided by Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates



ACUTE BRONCHITIS PEARLS

Do:

 Antitussives can be helpful (dextromethorphan OR codeine)

with wheezing

Bronchodilators helpful in select patients

- Don't:
 - Antibiotics not recommended; < 6% acute bronchitis bacterial and most of those cases little improvement with antibiotics. Smokers without COPD are not high risk and do not need antibiotics.
 - Expectorants and mucolytics not helpful (guafanesin [Mucinex])

Risk factors for complications — may consider antibiotics in these patients:

- COPD or bronchiectasis
- Immunocompromised
- CHF

Smokers, diabetics, and asthmatics are **not high risk** for bacterial infection.

*Patients age > 75 may have pneumonia even without focal chest findings.

After Chest 2006;129:95S-103S.

Guidelines and algorithms are intended to provide assistance in the diagnosis and management of various conditions. Their use is not mandatory and is not a substitute for clinical judgment. Clinicians are responsible for deciding on their relevance to any particular patient or clinical situation and for using them appropriately.