

Supplementary Table 1. Cough characteristics

Subject	Frequency of cough	Diurnal pattern	Variability in cough	Mucus production	Duration
P1	Daily...	Often at night.	Some days are worse than others.	... it's a dry cough. I never cough up phlegm.	... generally its fairly short.
P2	<p>It's you know cough cough, cough. Through the day well probably you know you are coughing all day.</p> <p>As I say it's not too bad, you know I might cough 20-30 times an hour.</p> <p>Oh, that's when it's not too bad. It's usually a single or a double cough. Something like that.</p>	<p>... first thing in the morning of course.</p> <p>It's when I first start moving.</p> <p>... on a normal day it's, it's not too bad and then of course in the evening when the cooler weather comes down it gets a bit more heavier.</p>	<p>... sometimes it's not too bad and other times it can be quite...you know... debilitating.</p> <p>It can be a breathless cough. It can be sort of a dry cough... sometimes it's repetitious...one after another. Other times it's general oomph and that's it, it's gone.</p> <p>... it only needs one glass of beer or wine... and it just depends... some days it doesn't affect you and other days it does. It's just unpredictable.</p>	<p>It's like cleaning out the old pipes... bringing up a lot of gunk ...</p> <p>It can be sort of a dry cough.</p>	Luckily it usually subsides within about 15 minutes to half an hour... from getting up.
P3	I have every day.	<p>... mainly in the morning when you get up.</p> <p>First thing in the morning this tough battle... that I have to cough.</p> <p>I don't cough at night. I don't cough at night at all. That's the blessing that I have so far.</p>	<p>I have good days and bad days. Good days will be maybe nothing and other days will be three or four attacks...</p> <p>You see sometimes when I sit down and do nothing it's good. But sometimes, when I am sitting down and doing nothing, the cough still comes sometimes because I've got sputum on my chest wanting to come out.</p>	<p>But my cough is not really dry cough... I have a lot of mucous and sputum and every time I cough up, I cough up the sputum and then I have the mucous in my nose as well at the same time.</p> <p>... the cough almost 100% related to the sputum. It's not a dry cough.</p> <p>Usually chronic coughing with a lot... a lot of mucous, sputum, I couldn't get rid of. Too much to get rid of.</p> <p>... my coughing is very much associated with my sputum in my system. I don't have a dry cough. Every time I cough it's because I've got something in my chest.</p> <p>But any time I cough will be associated with sputum from my lungs wanting to come up. Very strange... I don't have dry cough.</p>	Maybe 10 minutes or so first action of my sputum...

P4	... it's always there.	It's usually that early morning movement... the making of the bed... like getting dressed... making the bed... I'm done.	It really knocks the socks off me some mornings and other times I can sort of work around it.	-	-
P5	-	-	Some of the time it just goes on and on and on. It's been alright the last few days. Probably the last week. I haven't had too much of it.	-	-
P6	Intermittent...	-	... sometimes I can be reading and all of a sudden I will get a cough and it's strange. It can go for a while and all of a sudden... I can go for three weeks and then all of a sudden I can start coughing more regularly... It's annoying when I get to have a real coughing fit. And that's few and far in between... But on the daily thing it's not too bad really.	...what I usually get is a dry cough.	-
P7	-	But I don't wake up during the night with cough so...	Well it varies day to day. Like in the morning to the afternoon, depending on what I am doing and it depends on the weather. Whether it's windy or not... Every day is just different. Not two days are the same...	-	-
P8	-	At night though it gets quite tense. More so at night than through the day. Occasionally through the day but again it doesn't interrupt my life.	-	...the cough itself is no longer dry...before it was dry...now at night you feel phlegm and quite often I get. What can I do? It just comes up. I can't even cough it up. It just comes up. Whatever comes up I can take out with a tissue and anything else has to go back down. Because I am not going to sit here and cough my lungs up to try and get the phlegm up. Things to do and places to go...	-

P9	I cough...there hasn't been one day that goes by that I haven't coughed.	<p>... at night especially when I lay down on the pillow....it may be compressing more I'm not sure...</p> <p>Every night... when I lay down I cough every night in my sleep. I cough a lot.</p> <p>I cough every night. There is no way to explain it. I just cough every night. It doesn't matter whether I've had a good day, bad day or otherwise I still tend to cough all the time.</p>	-	I put my fingers under my ribcage, and I push up and feel a lot of congestion comes up out of my chest.	-
P10	Lately it's becoming more frequent. I have a coughing episode more often... it never used to be as frequent as it is now... I guess the cadence...it's very hard to explain how many times but it might be... say half a dozen times where I clear my throat and have a little cough... and now it might be more like 30 times a day. It might be more.	-	... it can vary a lot.	I think it's the production of the phlegm has increased too.	-
P11	-	... only a lot of coughing in the morning and the evening.	-	<p>... chesty and mucousy.</p> <p>Chesty, mucousy... when it's regular life... every day it might just be one random cough. Two random coughs. Say every 2 hours.</p>	-
P12	<p>... it seems to come and go...</p> <p>I won't be able to put a time or frequency on it because it is not regular enough.</p>	-	-	... we are talking about a wet cough, not a dry cough.	-

P13	-	<p>Although recent times I've been coughing in the morning. A dry cough in the morning. When I wake up.</p> <p>Other than those instances I don't cough all day long. I get a good night's sleep. I don't cough through the night.</p> <p>I'm starting to cough in the morning.</p>	<p>It has varied over the years.</p> <p>... you go through these phases I find. You have good and bad patches.</p>	<p>A dry cough in the morning.</p> <p>And I think I'm producing more mucous. Sinus mucous and phlegm on my chest. About 3 weeks or a month... when I make up in the morning I've just got to clear it. Once I cough for a bit and clear it I am alright and I don't cough for the rest of the day.</p> <p>And I started to have excess mucous and phlegm.</p>	-
P14	<p>... it does affect me in the day...</p> <p>I usually have like 2 sessions a day (cough)...</p>	I get it in the day as well as the night.	<p>...some days could be a little bit more... harder than other days... and other days I just have a cough for a short period of time.</p> <p>... when I finally go off to sleep... I'm just... a normal light sleep and get up in the morning. It will settle down a little bit. Some nights are different to other nights... once I've took the mixture... I'll settle down after a while and go off to sleep.</p>	I get dry cough... and it doesn't want to go away.	-
P15	<p>... but there's a cough... every day I cough.</p>	-	<p>There aren't really days where the cough is worse. No... even when I had the infection, that didn't affect the cough. It was my breathing.</p>	<p>... it feels like I'm clearing...an airway...and I have phlegm... I cough phlegm... each time I always cough phlegm.</p>	-
P16	-	<p>In the morning... it never happens in the morning... it never happens during the day. It's anywhere from four thirty onwards. Till about eight o'clock. Sometimes it can happen after dinner.</p>	It has sort of evolved and it changes.	<p>And I said look I feel like I need to get the productive stuff off my chest... I feel that in the mornings... that's when I would usually feel that. And I've got to clear the cough... Sometimes I can get into a coughing fit to the point where I have to get up whatever mucous might be there... and then I end up throwing up to clear it and then that clears that cough for a while.</p>	-