



BRONCHITIS - HOW IS BRONCHITIS DIAGNOSED?

Your health professional will ask you questions about your health, for example:

- if you have recently had a cold
- what your symptoms are
- what medicines you are taking
- details of your medical history
- any other medical conditions you may have e.g. asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Your health professional may examine you, and listen to your breathing using a stethoscope (a device used to listen to your breathing and heart beat). In bronchitis, the airways become inflamed and lots of mucus is produced

LABORATORY TESTS

Throat swab

If you have a fever (a temperature of 38.5°C or higher), a sore throat and a cough, your health professional may also take a sample from your throat and nose using a sterile cotton swab, which will be sent off for laboratory tests to find out what is causing the infection.

Chest X-ray

Your health professional may recommend a chest X-ray if your symptoms get worse, as pneumonia is a common complication of bronchitis.

It's OK to ask questions

If you have questions about your symptoms or the medicines managing your symptoms, speak with your health professional.

*Adapted from NPS MedicineWise (2012), [How is bronchitis diagnosed?](#)
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