Table 1

Differential diagnosis of lower respiratory tract infection

- Viral laryngitis/tracheitis/bronchitis e.g. influenza
- Pneumonia
- Influenza
- Asthma
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) with or without exacerbation
- Pulmonary embolism
- Cardiac failure
- Allergy (e.g. occupational exposure)
- Bronchiectasis (including cystic fibrosis)
- Toxic inhalation
- Aspiration/gastro-oesophageal reflux