

Sputum Characteristics of Cough Types

Adapted from A Pharmacist's Guide to Differentiating Cough

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| Sputum | Possible etiology |
|-----------------|--|
| Yellow or green | Bacterial infection, asthma |
| White or clear | Viral, CHF, GERD, asthma |
| Brown | Bronchitis, pneumonia |
| Red or pink | Pneumonia, TB, lung cancer, CHF |
| Black | Smoking, fungal infection, inhalation of environmental particles |