## Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

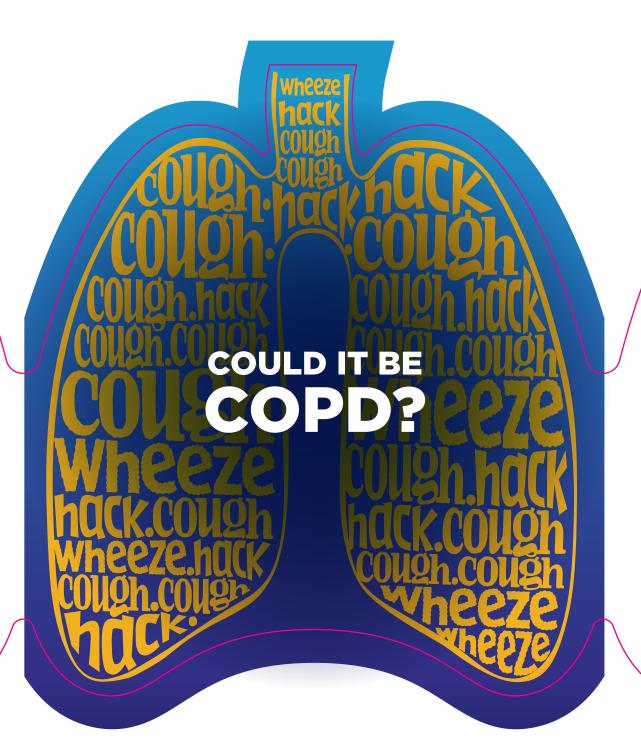
COPD is a serious lung disease that makes it hard to breathe.

Symptoms come on so gradually that many people don't realize they have it.

In people who have COPD (also called chronic bronchitis or emphysema), less air flows in and out of the airways of the lungs.

Common signs and symptoms include:

- wheezing
- shortness of breath
  while doing everyday activities
- ongoing coughing that produces a lot of mucus
- chest tightness
- a combination of all the above



## Talk to a Health Care Provider

COPD has no cure yet, but lifestyle changes and treatments may help you feel better. If you have any of these signs or symptoms, see a health care provider.

Keep track of what symptoms you feel and when, then bring the list to your appointment, along with all your current medications. COPD diagnosis is based on:



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS



PERSONAL & MEDICAL HISTORY



TEST RESULTS



Learn more at COPD.nhlbi.nih.gov





