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**Lab Dept:** Chemistry

**Test Name:** PEPSIN A ASSAY

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***General Information***

**Lab Order Codes:** PEPAS

**Synonyms:** N/A

**CPT Codes:** 83516 – Immunoassay for analyte other than infectious agent antibody or infectious agent antigen; qualitative or semiquantitative, multiple step method  
83986 – pH; body fluid, not otherwise specified  
84157 – Protein, other source

**Test Includes:** pH, Protein reported in mg/mL, Pepsin A Units reported in ng/mL

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***Logistics***

**Test Indications:** Gastric pepsin detected in the airway of patients is a specific and sensitive marker to assess pulmonary aspiration.

**Lab Testing Sections:** Chemistry – Sendouts

**Referred to:** Mayo Medical Laboratories (MML Test: FPEPA) (Mayo forward to Alfred I. duPont Hosp for Children-Gastroenterology)

**Phone Numbers:** MIN Lab: 612-813-6280

STP Lab: 651-220-6550

**Test Availability:** Daily, 24 hours

**Turnaround Time:** 5-9 days, test performed Monday - Friday

**Special Instructions:** N/A

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**Specimen Type:** Tracheal or Bronch Fluid

**Container:** Screw-capped vial

**Draw Volume:** 1 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) tracheal or bronch fluid

**Processed Volume:** Same as Draw Volume.

<b>Collection:</b>	<p><b>Tracheal aspirate:</b> Attach a LUKI trap to a suction catheter, pass the catheter down the endotracheal tube, and apply suction to the catheter as the catheter is withdrawn. If the secretion is too thick to be withdrawn, instill saline (2 mL) to the tracheal tube prior to aspirating the secretion.</p> <p><b>Bronchial Fluid:</b> Bronchial secretion can be collected using a standard collection protocol.</p> <p>Avoid over-diluting specimen with a large amount of saline during collection.</p> <p>Transfer to a small, tightly capped plastic tube immediately after collection. Send to lab.</p>
<b>Special Processing:</b>	Lab Staff: Send 1 mL (Minimum: 0.5 mL) in a tightly capped vial. Freeze as soon as possible. Forward to reference lab at frozen temperatures.
<b>Patient Preparation:</b>	N/A
<b>Sample Rejection:</b>	Specimens received not frozen; mislabeled or unlabeled specimens.

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### ***Interpretive***

<b>Reference Range:</b>	<p>&lt;3.0 Negative</p> <p>3-50 Weak to moderate positive</p> <p>&gt;50 Strong positive</p>
<b>Critical Values:</b>	N/A
<b>Limitations:</b>	N/A
<b>Methodology:</b>	ELISA with Immunofluorescence
<b>References:</b>	<a href="#">Mayo Medical Laboratories</a> (May 2017)
<b>Updates:</b>	8/10/2017: CPT update to include pH and protein