

Nixon home, rest ordered

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LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Chalk-faced and thin, former President Richard M. Nixon left the hospital Thursday and returned to his San Clemente villa, where he will be examined by three doctors to determine if he can testify at the Watergate coverup trial.

His personal physician said he believes Nixon's blood pressure would soar from the stress of the court-ordered examination and warned it might set off renewed internal bleeding.

Nixon shook hands weakly with his doctor, nurses and other personnel who had attended him for 23 days before getting into a limousine that took him and his wife, Pat, to their seaside estate 50 miles south of the hospital.

Wearing light blue pajamas and a navy blue robe, the former president was helped into the car by hospital attendants after coming out a rear entrance in a wheelchair, his phlebitis-stricken left leg propped up. He had lost 10 to 15 pounds since re-entering the hospital for a second time Oct. 23 after a phlebitis flareup.

A hospital spokesman said Nixon was immediately put in an adjustable hospital bed after arriving home.

Rest and nonstressful activities are the key to Nixon's convalescence, said his doctor, John C. Lungren.

Hospital spokesmen would not release Nixon's bill, but it was reliably reported to total at least \$10,000 — which Nixon must pay out of his own already-beleaguered finances because he does not have insurance. Fifteen doctors were involved in caring for Nixon during his hospitalization.

There was no immediate word when the three doctors would arrive. All internationally known cardiovascular specialists, they were appointed by U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica on Wednesday to determine within 15 days whether Nixon is well enough to give testimony in the coverup trial of five of his former political associates.

When Sirica appointed the team, Lungren said they would be welcomed. But the doctor said Thursday he believed their examination would cause the

former chief executive stress and bring a marked rise in blood pressure.

A rise in blood pressure, combined with the blood-thinning anticoagulant drug the 61-year-old former president is taking for phlebitis, would mean "the chance of a hemorrhage is magnified," Lungren said.

"But I have no control over it. That's the court's physicians," Lungren added.

Anticoagulants make the body prone to easy bleeding. They led to the severe bleeding that Nixon suffered after blood clot surgery Oct. 29.

Lungren revealed during the news conference at Memorial Hospital Medical Center of Long Beach that another operation had been contemplated to stop the postoperative bleeding, which ultimately was stopped by blood transfusions.

Nixon had experienced dramatic blood pressure increases this week "at times of physical and nonphysical stress." It was 140 over 90 at the time of his discharge, Lungren said. Normal for Nixon is 130 over 70.