

Doctors Say Nixon Improved

Washington

President Nixon was showing "good improvement" in his bout with viral pneumonia yesterday but his doctors ruled that he would remain in the hospital until at least Friday. 20 JUL

A new chest X-ray, taken yesterday afternoon, "continued to show an improving trend," the doctors announced.

Earlier they said the President has been sitting up for brief periods, four times daily, after inhalation and chest therapy.

"The prognosis is excellent," the White House physician, Dr. Walter R. Tkach, reported, describing the President as "midway in the recovery process."

The chief concern, the

Back Page Col. 8

From Page 1

President's personal physician said, is that Mr. Nixon would "push himself too hard and too fast."

Under the doctor's insistence that he limit his activities so as not to suffer a relapse, Tkach said "so far he has desisted in our favor."

The President had his first restful night Saturday, getting 7½ hours sleep, without any analgesic injection to ease his chest pain since he entered Bethesda Naval Medical Center Thursday night.

His temperature had dropped yesterday to 99 degrees from a high of 102. Dr. Tkach said the chest pain is easing, too, and discomfort occurs only with deep breathing.

FATIGUE

As had been predicted, Tkach said that the President is experiencing malaise and fatigue and the period of convalescence is expected to run ten days after he leaves the hospital.

The four doctors on the case saw the President again yesterday morning — Tkach, Assistant White House physician William M.

Lukash, Navy Captain Robert C. Elliott, head of the pulmonary disease branch at the Bethesda Naval Hospital, and Dr. Sol Katz, head of the pulmonary disease division of Georgetown University School of Medicine.

There has been no decision yet on where Mr. Nixon will go to recuperate after he leaves the hospital.

"I expect he will fight to stay here in Washington," Tkach said, adding "I prefer him to be in a warm, sunny climate. But I don't think he'll buy it." The doctor has said Mr. Nixon wants to remain in the Washington area, "where he can be in the thick of it."

RETURN

Presidential press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon probably will return to the White House at first and also spend some time at Camp David, Md.

Mr. Nixon's visitors are being kept to a minimum. His family has been visiting him daily, and Tricia Cox, the Nixons' older daughter, flew in from New York yesterday to join the group at the hospital.

When they emerged after a visit of about 50 minutes, Mrs. Nixon replied "Better," when asked how the President was doing.

Mr. Nixon also went over morning briefings on national security matters and met with his executive assistant, Rose Mary Woods, and his chief of staff, General Alexander M. Haig Jr.

Mr. Nixon also has talked to members of his staff, including national security adviser Henry Kissinger on the phone.

The President was described as having little energy, to the point, Ziegler said, where he doesn't feel well enough to pick up a book and read. The President does not watch television, Ziegler said.

Associated Press