

MRS. NIXON GAINING; NEEDS LONG THERAPY

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LONG BEACH, Calif., July 13 (UPI) — Pat Nixon, partially paralyzed by a stroke, is steadily improving and advanced today from simple arm and leg therapy to walking and standing at least once a day.

She began arm and leg strengthening exercises at her bedside yesterday with the aid of a physical therapist, and today her treatment was expanded to include standing and walking once or twice a day, said Dr. John Lungren, the Nixon's personal physician.

"Although Mrs. Nixon's condition would still have to be called serious because of the nature of a stroke," Dr. Lungren said, "basically the entire picture has improved. Her speech has improved, her blood pressure remains under control, although there still is some motor weakness on the left side of her body."

Dr. Lungren said the bedside exercise included movement-resistance practice with a therapist either helping Mrs. Nixon move her arm or leg or resisting Mrs. Nixon's movements. This is to help rebuild muscle strength, he said. It will take three of four months of therapy to achieve "significant recovery," he said.

A spokesman said there would be no further medical briefings until the day before Mrs. Nixon was discharged, which doctors estimated would be in a week to 10 days.