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Docs rush to rescue Dapper Don

Ailing mob godfather John Gotti suffered another medical setback in a Missouri prison hospital last week, causing doctors to perform an immediate, undisclosed procedure on him as he battles the final stages of terminal neck and throat cancer.

Only a week earlier, the dying don collapsed in his hospital cell from a blood clot and nearly bled to death before guards found him two hours later.

In that instance, he was rushed to the private St. John's Medical Center in Springfield, where he received a lifesaving, emergency infusion of about a dozen pints of blood.

The head of the Gambino crime family — his weight down from 240 to 160 pounds — was released from the private hospital several days later and returned to his hospital prison cell, where he had the second setback.

Despite the Dapper Don's grave condition, law-enforcement sources have said he still has his fighting spirit.

He could go to court to try to be transferred to a private hospital to spend his final days, but he's made it clear he wants no favors from the feds, a source said. *Murray Weiss*

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