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What healthcare investors look for in neurotech: From clinical promise to scalable care

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India's rehabilitation sector requires investment not simply in facilities, but in the clinical teams, operating systems and care pathways

When people need help beyond medical treatment, recovery and long-term care are frequently about what happens after a visit to the hospital. Some people with mental health conditions may also need systematic therapy and supervised recovery, whereas children with autism may need ongoing developmental care. Older people living with dementia or Parkinson's disease may need assistance to retain their independence and manage their daily routines.

As a result of these demands, rehabilitation programs that integrate clinical treatment with therapy and continuous support are receiving more attention. Creating accessible and financially sustainable organised care models that consistently satisfy these demands is an opportunity for healthcare investors.

An Emerging Need for Specialised Care

India needs rehabilitation in numerous sectors of healthcare. A nationwide study published in*Alzheimer's & Dementia* showed that 8.8 million Indians aged 60 and above were living with dementia and the number is expected to increase 16.9 million by 2036. This suggests an increasing significance of care approaches that serve older persons and their families over an extended period.

Each of these conditions has different levels of support needed. In the case of autism spectrum disorder, speech and occupational therapy and behavioral management will be necessary. In the case of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia, the level of cognitive stimulation and regular routine as well as help in activities of daily living is needed. In the case of Parkinson's disease, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy may be required.

Mental health and addiction recovery require a different approach, incorporating such elements as psychiatric assessment, use of medication when needed, psychotherapy and supervised treatment. Despite their difference in nature, both of these types of services involve a continuity of care, provided by qualified specialists.

How Rehabilitation Services Are Advancing

The rehabilitation system in India consists of government-sponsored facilities, specialised hospitals, residential centres, out-patient services, and centers that offer multiple therapies. The models depend on the desires of the people they serve, from medically supervised addiction recovery to developmental interventions and neurological rehabilitation.

There are government initiatives in the ecosystem. In July 2026, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment informed that the government assisted 765 de-addiction and rehabilitation facilities across the country under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction. Athena Behavioural Health's Guwahati facility, featured in 2026 coverage, demonstrates a structured model combining psychiatric and addiction treatment with rehabilitation and greater recovery support over the

years.

Meanwhile, Jagruti’s network of 17 centres and approximately 1,700 beds illustrates the scale at which specialised, structured care can be delivered. Together, such models reflect the diversity of India’s rehabilitation ecosystem and the need to expand access while maintaining consistent standards of care.

What Investors Need to Evaluate

Rehabilitation is a people-intensive business, with care quality depending on skilled professionals. Investors need to assess whether providers can recruit and retain qualified psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, nurses and caregivers. Strong clinical oversight, personalised care plans, safeguarding measures and coordination among professionals are equally important.

The operating model also matters. Residential centres require suitable infrastructure and round-the-clock staffing, while outpatient services depend on professional availability and continuity of treatment. Investors must understand how operating costs affect pricing, occupancy and longer financial viability.

Expansion brings further challenges. A model that works in a large city may not translate easily to smaller towns, where specialist availability, awareness and affordability vary. Providers need robust processes, training systems and clinical oversight to expand without compromising care quality. Growth should be measured not just by the number of facilities established, but by the ability to maintain consistent standards across locations.

Making Long-Term Care More Accessible

Factors such as affordability and awareness affect access to rehabilitation. The cost of residential treatment and repeated therapy is high, while lack of knowledge about the services may take some time before seeking help. It may also be hard for families to differentiate a center providing general supervision from one with specialised care.

Providers can create trust by open communication, skilled staff, clear care plans and regular family contact. Partnerships with hospitals, doctors and community-based agencies can also allow people to obtain the right support and ensure continuity between different phases of care.

Accessibility is not separate from business sustainability for investors. Care models that respond to local needs, explain their services clearly and use resources efficiently are better positioned to serve families over a period of time.

Building a Sustainable Rehabilitation Ecosystem

India's rehabilitation sector requires investment not simply in facilities, but in the clinical teams, operating systems and care pathways that make those facilities effective. The opportunity is to build specialised providers that can deliver consistent care, expand responsibly and reach more families without placing quality beyond their means.

Investors can help shape the next phase of rehabilitation care by backing models that combine clinical credibility with operational discipline, wider access and a clear commitment to patient well-being in the long run.

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