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Portea Medical, India's home healthcare pioneer today announced that it has received a combined Rs. 48 crore in Series A funding from venture capital firms, Accel Partners and Ventureast.

Portea will use the funding to fuel its growth in 2014 and beyond as it looks to grow both organically and via acquisitions, to a further six Indian cities in addition to the four (New Delhi, Mumbai, Banglore and Chennai) in which the company's highquality, home healthcare services are already available.

"We are delighted to have Accel Partners and Ventureast as our partners. The quantum of funding is the largest ever Series A VC investment in a home healthcare company in India; we believe this development is a striking endorsement of Portea's leadership and growth prospects in the rapidly expanding home healthcare sector in the country," said Meena Ganesh, co-founder and CEO at Portea.

"The funds will help us strengthen our offering even as we accelerate our expansion across India in the coming months, and invest in advanced diagnostic and remote monitoring technology to support our clinicians as they deliver a range of in-home healthcare services," she said.

Following the development, Mahendran Balachandran from Accel Partners and Venkatadri Bobba from Ventureast will join the Portea Medical Board of Directors.

Portea clinicians currently handle around 2000 home visits a month providing geriatric and palliative care for chronic patients. The company is working with leading hospitals and insurance companies to build understanding and establish the concept of in-home healthcare in the country, which is an already tried and tested model in developed countries including the US and UK.

The home healthcare market in India, currently estimated as a \$ 2-4 billion a year opportunity, is driven by the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases, an aging population, and the need for better quality post-operative and primary care. Today, chronic issues account for the majority of deaths in India (53%) and there is a sizeable elderly population that is in need of routine home healthcare visits; by 2025, one in every five Indian's will be a senior citizen.

Portea work with hospitals, insurance companies and individuals to improve health outcomes by providing a continuity of care in the home setting from doctors, nurses, physiotherapists, nutritionists, counselors, and home health aides. The company has five tier-1 corporate hospitals as partners, a network of hundreds of referring physicians all over India and handles around 2000 home visits a month.