



Jenna Hightower, PT, DPT, CCS

Critical Care Physical Therapist

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Dr. Hightower earned her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Western Carolina University in 2017. Following this, she completed a Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Critical Care Residency through Mercer University at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital in 2018. Then she was subsequently board-certified by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties as a Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Clinical Specialist in 2019.

Since embarking on her career, Dr. Hightower has served as a Critical Care Physical Therapist in multi-specialty intensive care units at both Piedmont Atlanta Hospital and Mayo Clinic Florida. Her expertise lies in early mobility interventions within the ICU, particularly for patients on advanced mechanical circulatory support devices such as ECMO, IABP, Impella, and LVAD, as well as those on various forms of mechanical ventilation. She specializes in managing complex cases involving multiple end-organ failure or shock requiring invasive support, with a particular passion for pre- and post-heart and lung transplant care. Dr. Hightower has frequently integrated the use of the Total Lift Bed into her patients' care plans to enhance outcomes, despite the complexity and acuity of their conditions.

In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Hightower has delivered guest lectures for Doctor of Physical Therapy programs, presented at international, national and regional conferences, produced educational webinars for several healthcare institutions, and contributed to numerous publications on ICU mobility. She continues to provide patient care as a PRN Critical Care Physical Therapist at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital while primarily serving as the Director of Clinical Strategy for VitalGo Systems. In this role, she focuses on advancing ICU mobility practices, verticalization research and improving patient outcomes globally.