

PEOPLE WITH HUMAN IMMUNE DEFICIENCY VIRUS TRANSITIONING TO AGED CARE: PHENOMENOLOGICAL APPROACH

Authors:

Curry M¹, Cusack L¹

¹Adelaide Nursing School, Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Adelaide

Background:

With improvements in human immunodeficiency virus therapy, people with human immunodeficiency virus (PHIV) are living much longer. However, a key aspect for this ageing population is accelerated ageing process. Consequently, this renders them to experience aged-related conditions much younger, which may reduce their ability to live independently in their own homes from an earlier age than the broader population. This paper explored with older PHIV their lived experience of ageing and concerns related to transitioning to aged care, if required, and what they envisage for a life well-lived in this environment.

Methods:

Research was conducted using qualitative hermeneutic phenomenology. This enabled a methodological space for the participants and the researcher to explore, unravel and potentially reveal a deeper understanding of the meaning of the lived experience for the participants considering a potential transition to a life with HIV in aged care.

Results:

Fifteen participants were recruited. Participants were male, aged 60 years and over with oldest aged 88 at time of interview. Three main themes were identified: Life lived from diagnosis of HIV; HIV today; considering transition to a life well lived in aged care. While reflecting on their experience of past discrimination some participants expressed real concerns and antipathy about the prospect of a life lived in an unknown environment of aged care, however the stronger view was largely optimistic that negative attitudes within society towards HIV had changed.

Conclusion:

Need for an aged care workforce that is well educated about the disease and with non-discriminatory attitudes towards those living with HIV and those from the LGBTI+ community. A workforce that would not heighten pre-existing fears of stigma and discrimination and advocate on behalf of members from these groups to experience acceptance and a life well-lived in aged care.

Disclosure of Interest Statement:

No disclosure of interest. This study was conducted for a Doctor of Philosophy.