



TITLE: 'Just take your medicine and everything will be fine': The complexities of
responsibilising young people who have grown up with HIV under neoliberalism

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Through the use of effective treatment, children born with HIV are now growing into young adult life. In advanced liberal nations, this also involves a transition into adult HIV care settings that expect patients to operate as self-managed health consumers. To fulfil the newly imagined promise of a long and healthy life, this unique generation are urged to take ownership of their HIV through medication and service use, and prevention of onward transmission, at a time of life already involving much change and complexity. Drawing on the first qualitative study on growing up with HIV in Australia, and framed by governmentality theory, we identified three themes in interviews with young people and their care providers: *responsibilisation as imperative, practice and contest*. Young people with chronic illnesses value the independence promised by neoliberal discourses, and recognise that aspirations for partnership, family life and careers will require lifelong attention to medical advice. But if care providers do not appreciate the distinctive meanings health and medicine can hold for young people growing up with a feared and potentially fatal disease, attempts to engage them in securing a future will hold little meaning, and potentially threaten their trust in the medical field.