

Retrospective identification of factors which contribute to Hepatitis C treatment decisions in a population of people with haemophilia in Ireland

Introduction:

In 2012, two new protease inhibitors for Hepatitis C Genotype 1 were licensed in Ireland. In order to provide members considering and undergoing treatment with support, the Irish Haemophilia Society initiated a strategic communications plan informing members of the new treatments, through meetings, peer groups, specific newsletters, and personal stories from patients on treatment. Following the initiation of treatment we carried out a survey in an initial cohort of 11 patients with haemophilia to retrospectively identify the factors which contributed to their Hepatitis C treatment decisions.

Authors: Noone D¹, O'Mahony B¹, Duffy A¹, Gallagher P²

1. Irish Haemophilia Society

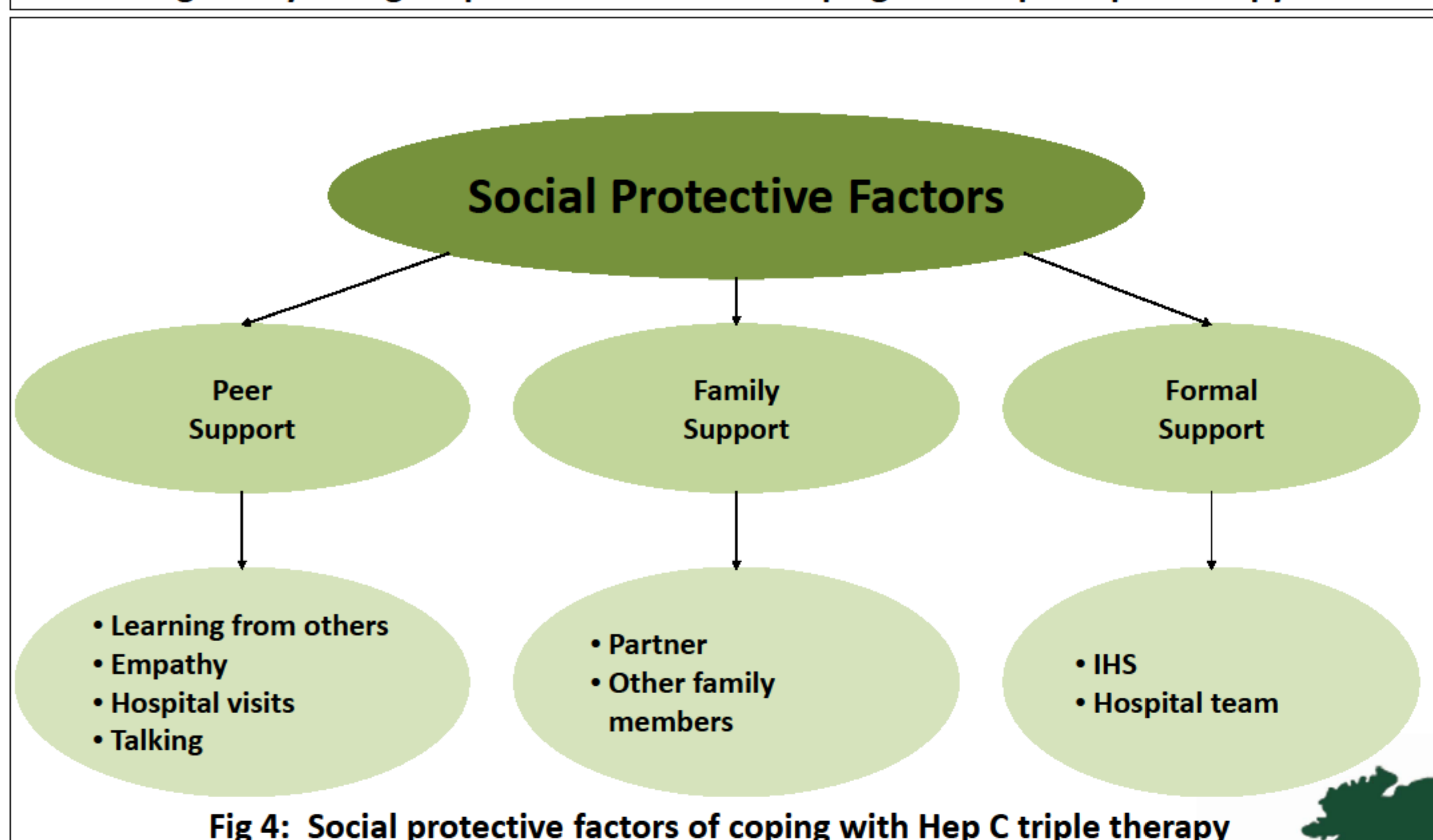
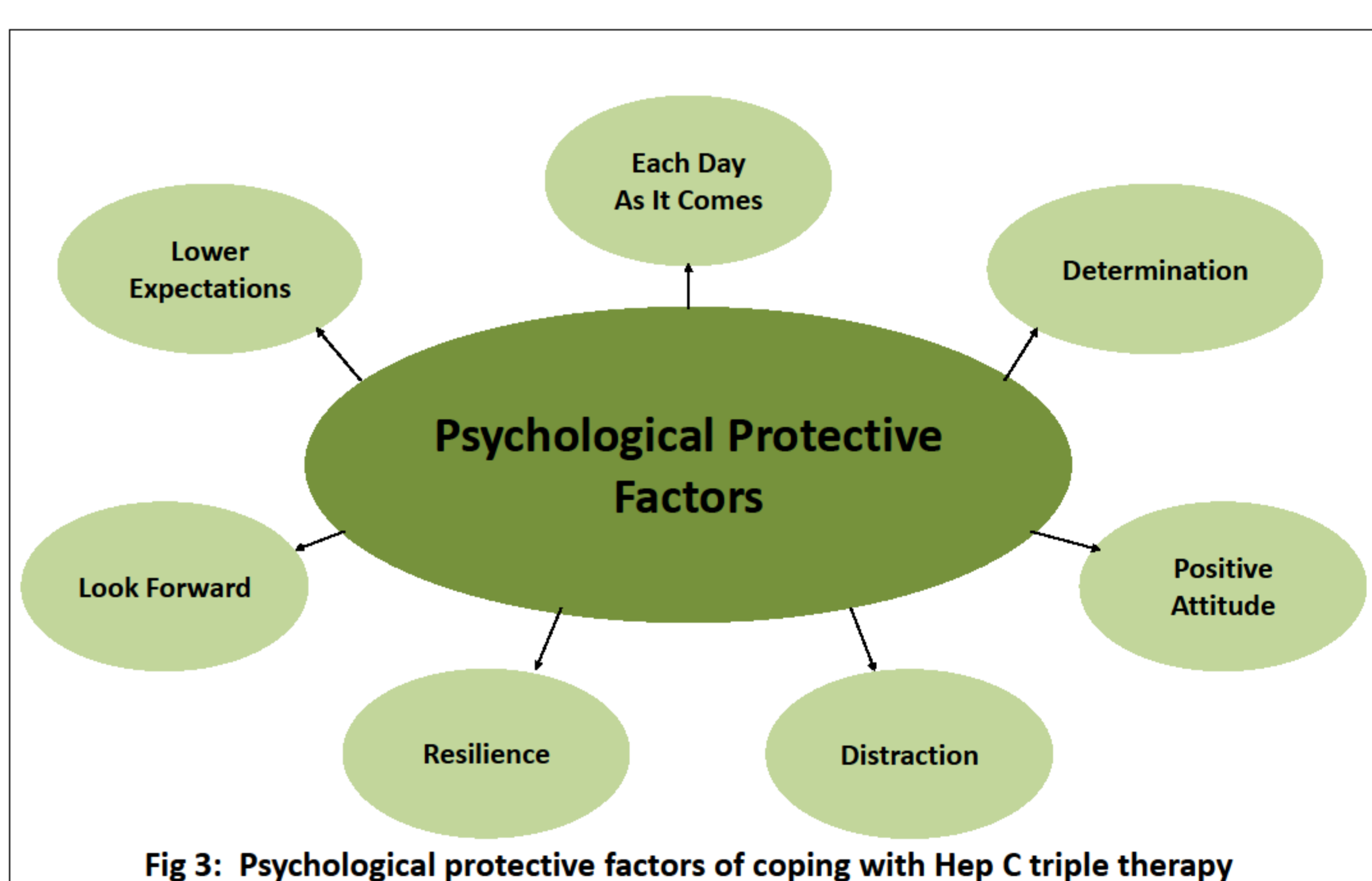
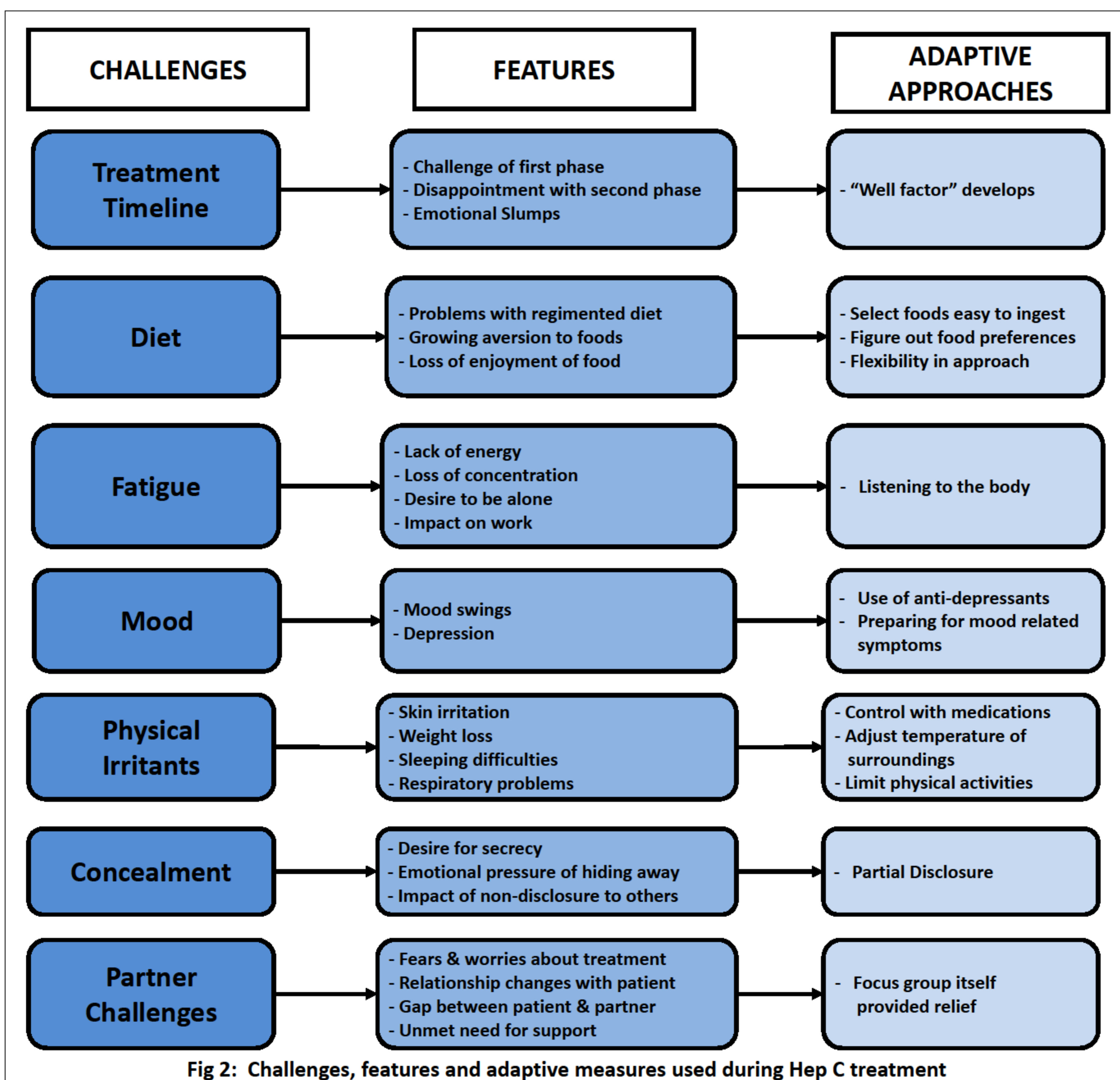
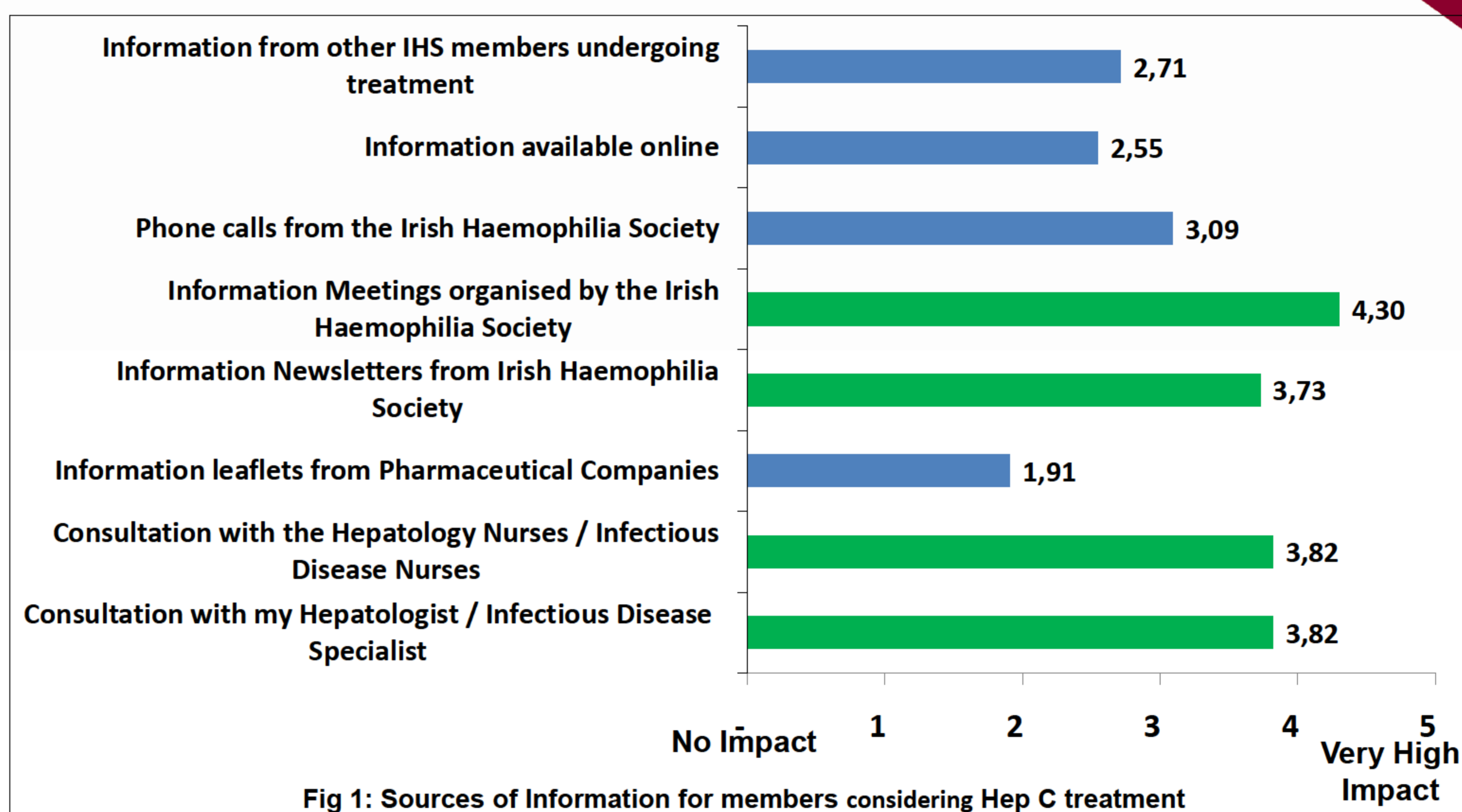
2. Dublin City University

Materials and Methods The survey was sent out to all 11 PWH who were undergoing triple treatment (100% response rate). The survey examined quantitative data based on the expectations from treatment, preparation for side effects, preparation for impact on daily life including work, daily activities and the subsequent reality of treatment. The survey was then used to form the basis of a group interview with PWH on treatment and their partners which was assessed using qualitative analysis.

Results: The results showed that the main factors influencing the decision to start treatment were

- Availability of new treatments,
- Discussions with the Hepatology Team and Clinicians
- Meetings organised by the Irish Haemophilia Society. (Fig 1)

72% of respondents rated the impact of the triple therapy treatments as severe to very severe as well as more severe or much more severe than had been anticipated. The qualitative analysis identified key challenges and protective factors in adhering to therapy (Fig 2 and Fig 3).



Conclusion: The survey and the group interview examined the major challenges and areas of support perceived by PWH when deciding to go on and undergoing treatment. Support from spouse/family member, clinical support from Hepatology clinicians and peer support from other PWH undergoing treatment were identified as having the largest impact during treatment. The members also identified the Irish Haemophilia Society as one of the key providers of additional information and support.

