Supplementary file 1 Details of methodology of explorative needs assessment interviews

- **Eligibility criteria:** Patients who had a clinical diagnosis of SpA, were aged 18 years or older, fluent in Dutch language and who recently (≤2 weeks) discussed with their care-provider to initiate a b/tsDMARD. Eligibility for inclusion was considered on a case-by-case basis, aiming for a sample that represented the SpA population based on their gender, age and extra-musculoskeletal manifestations. Previous use of a b/tsDMARD was not necessary.

- **Recruitment:** All participants were recruited consecutively from the rheumatology department of the Maastricht University Medical Centre (MUMC), a university hospital and expert centre on axSpA in the Netherlands. Patients were invited by their rheumatologist at outpatient visits and the interviews took place adjacent to their visits to reduce the patient burden of an extra visit to the hospital.

- **Prior to the interviews:** All participants signed informed consent. Patients also completed a short questionnaire on their socio-demographic background and they were financially compensated with a gift card worth €10,- for their allocated time and contribution.

- **Content of the interview guide:** The interview guide was based on the first literature search and was formulated by the researcher (EB) in collaboration with two SpA experts (AvT and AB).

- **Conducting the interviews:** Patients signed informed consent. The interviews were conducted by the researcher (EB) who was already trained in the past by a trained and experienced researcher on performing and analysing interviews. As the interviews were semi-structured, patients had the freedom to discuss topics they considered as important more extensively. After each individual interview with patients, the research team evaluated whether data saturation was obtained. If this was not the case, additional interviews were planned.

- **Data analyses:** The researcher (EB) made notes during the individual interviews with patients and the group interviews with care-providers were audiotaped and transcribed verbatim. Finally, all interviews were analysed using the thematic structure of the interview guide. The results were used for the development of the decision aid.