Supplementary file 4 Details of methodology for alpha testing of the decision aid

- **Recruitment:** The same patients that participated in the explorative interviews were invited to participate in the first pilot testing round. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic (December 2021) the majority of the invited patients declined our invitation and additional patients were recruited from the rheumatology department of the Maastricht University Medical Centre. Inclusion criteria were current use of rheumatic drugs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) or current or in the past use of b/tsDMARDs.

- **Prior to the interviews:** All participants signed informed consent. Patients completed a brief questionnaire on their socio-demographic background and they were financially compensated for their allocated time and efforts.

- **Conducting the interviews:** The interviews were conducted by one trained and experienced researcher (EB). During the interviews, participants were asked to read the different parts of the decision aid and to reflect on the content, usability, comprehensibility, layout, readability and expected future use using the concurrent thinking aloud-method. In-depth questions and clarification of comments were asked when needed. 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 all individual interviews with patients and care-providers. All interviews were analysed using the thematic structure of the interview guide. Suggestions for improvement were discussed with the steering group and actions to adapt the decision aid were formulated.