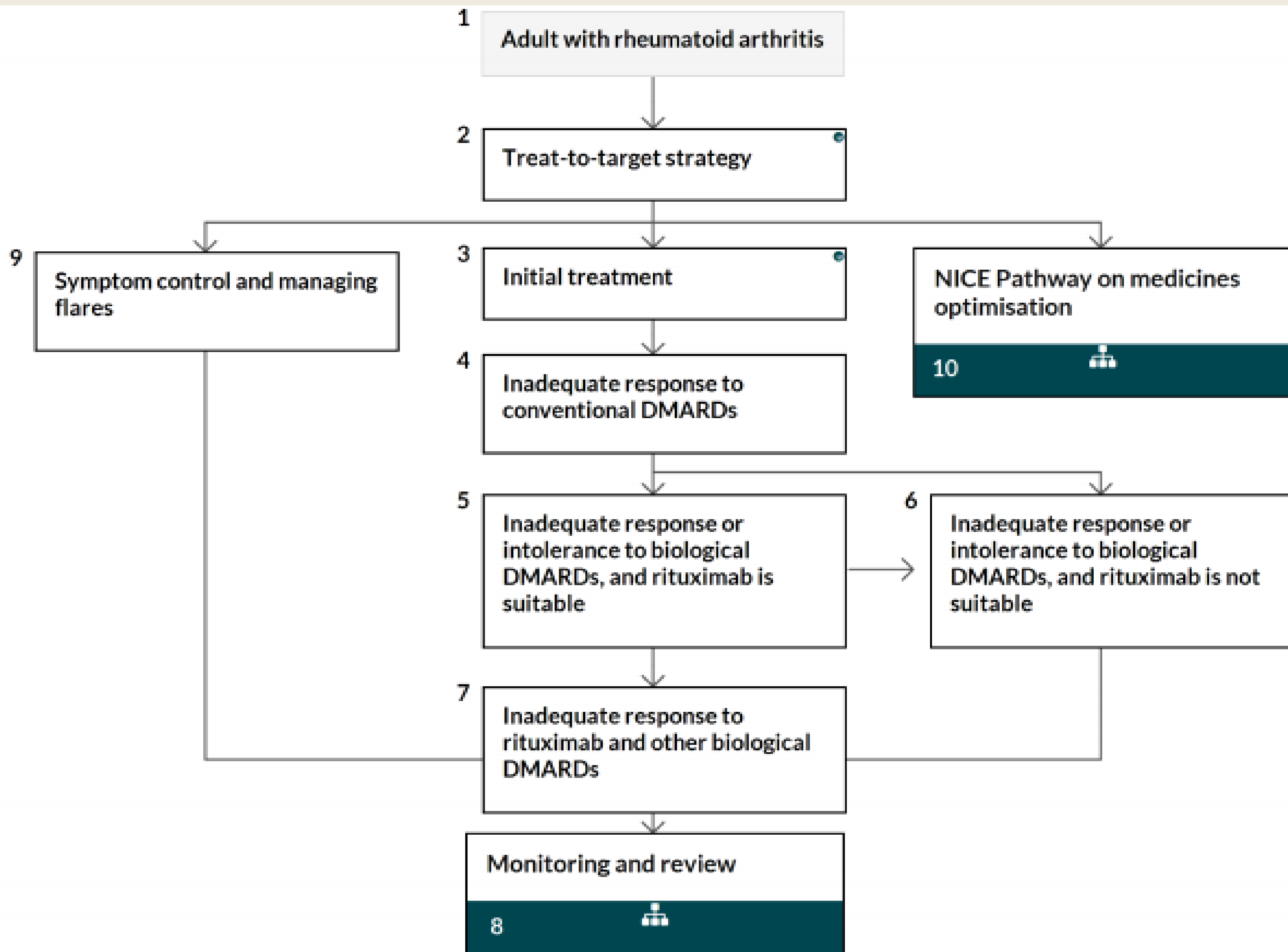

Updates on RA

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Sarilumab (Kevzara)

Sarilumab can be used as monotherapy for people who cannot take methotrexate because it is contraindicated or because of intolerance, when the criteria above are met.

Continue treatment only if there is a moderate response measured using EULAR criteria at 6 months after starting therapy. After an initial response within 6 months, withdraw treatment if at least a moderate EULAR response is not maintained.

Inadequate response or intolerance to biological DMARDs, and rituximab is suitable

Rituximab in combination with methotrexate is recommended as an option for the treatment of adults with severe active rheumatoid arthritis who have had an inadequate response to, or are

intolerant of, other DMARDs, including at least one TNF inhibitor. Treatment with rituximab should be given no more frequently than every 6 months.

An **adequate response** is defined as an IMPROVEMENT IN DAS28 OF 1.2 POINTS OR MORE.

Although a number of differences exist between guidelines, there are some general principles. These include starting DMARDs soon after diagnosis; methotrexate should be used first line; disease activity should be monitored regularly; biologics therapies should be used where there is persistently active disease; and remission or low disease activity is the preferred target.

