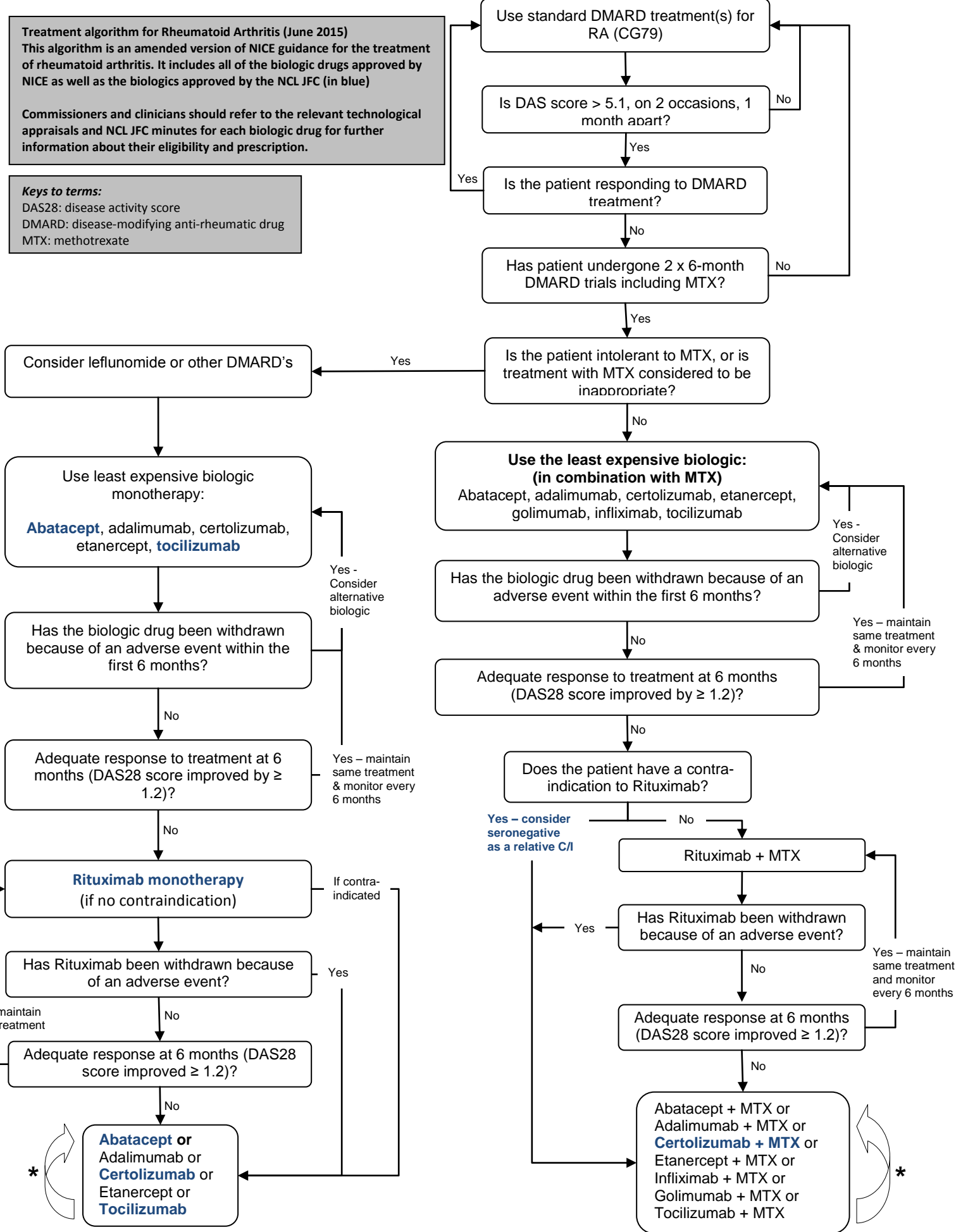


**Treatment algorithm for Rheumatoid Arthritis (June 2015)**  
 This algorithm is an amended version of NICE guidance for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. It includes all of the biologic drugs approved by NICE as well as the biologics approved by the NCL JFC (in blue)

Commissioners and clinicians should refer to the relevant technological appraisals and NCL JFC minutes for each biologic drug for further information about their eligibility and prescription.

**Keys to terms:**

DAS28: disease activity score  
 DMARD: disease-modifying anti-rheumatic drug  
 MTX: methotrexate



\* Do not use biologic that patient has tried and failed previously. Treatment should be stopped if inadequate response and switched to an alternative biologic if appropriate. Maximum of 4 biologics per patient, after which an IFR or business case would have to be submitted

If patient in remission confirmed by ultrasound scan for 18 to 24 months, consider reducing biologic dose either by decreasing dose in each administration (if preparation available) or by increasing the interval between doses.