Supplementary file 2 EQPERA Data collection template

Enrollment and interview logistics (t_1 and t_2)	
Respondent ID	ID number
Date of birth	dd/mm/yyyy
Gender	man, woman, X
Respondents' place of residence	postal code, location
Responsible recruiter	function, name, contact details
Rheumatology center	name, location
Type of rheumatology center	academic hospital, general hospital, private practice
Treating rheumatologist	name
Date of diagnosis	dd/mm/yyyy
Symptom duration	in months, [date of diagnosis - date of symptom onset]
Disease duration	in months; calculated with date of diagnosis
Comorbidity	no severe comorbidities present [yes/no]
Date of RA treatment initiation	dd/mm/yyyy
Months of treatment experience at t_1	date interview t_1 - date treatment initiation = between 3-6 months
Initial treatment	the local treatment protocol for early RA: free text, no details on dosages
Initial treatment allocated according to clinical prognostic factors	yes/no
Step-down strategy	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
MTX-only step-up	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
MTX + early bridging glucocorticoids	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
○ glucocorticoids starting dose <30mg/day	yes/no
○ glucocorticoids starting dose ≥30mg/day	yes/no
Early combination therapy classical DMARDs with glucocorticoids	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
○ number of DMARDs included	number
○ glucocorticoids starting dose <30mg/day	yes/no
○ glucocorticoids starting dose ≥30mg/day	yes/no
Early combination therapy classical DMARDs without glucocorticoids	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
○ number of DMARDs included	number
Biologicals as a first hit	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
Responder to initial treatment (at moment of t_1 recruitment)	yes/no
Patient obliged or deciding to discontinue RA treatment (at moment of t_1 recruitment; e.g., because of safety reasons, patient's decision)	yes/no
Reason to not recruit patient	free text or N/A (not applicable)
Date of study invitation	dd/mm/yyyy (sharing of invitation letter)
Reason in case not interested in study (if shared)	free text
Invitation for t_1 by phone (if interested)	dd/mm/yyyy (first contact between patient and researchers)

Verbal consent for t_1 after phone call	yes/no
Contact details patient	address/phone number/email
Patient-preferred contact method	by phone or email
Date and timing of individual interview t_1	dd/mm/yyyy; hour
Location of individual interview t_1	home or rheumatology practice/clinic
Reminder for t_1 sent	dd/mm/yyyy
Reason in case interview t_1 was cancelled (if shared)	free text
Respondent gave written informed consent t_1	yes/no
Interviewer t_1	name
Interviewer is involved as participant's health professional in daily practice	yes/no
t_1 respondent gave consent at t_1 to be contacted again for second part of study (t_2)	yes/no
Reason in case not interested in t_2 (at t_1) participation (if shared)	'Not interested to share own experiences in group', 'Feeling uncomfortable to talk in group', 'Fear for seeing other patients', 'Not interested in the story of other patients', 'Other'
Months of treatment experience at t_2	date focus group - date treatment start= at least 1 year (between 12-18 months) after treatment initiation
Invitation letter t_2 sent by post	dd/mm/yyyy (by researchers)
Invitation for t_2 by phone	dd/mm/yyyy (by researchers)
Verbal consent for t_2 after phone call	yes/no
If not interested in group interview, interested in individual interview instead?	yes/no
Reason in case not interested in t_2 (if shared)	'Not interested to share own experiences in group', 'Feeling uncomfortable to talk in group', 'Fear for seeing other patients', 'Not interested in the story of other patients', 'Other'
Date and timing of focus group t_2	dd/mm/yyyy; hour
Location of focus group t_2	clinical or non-clinical setting
If applicable: Date and timing of individual interview t_2	dd/mm/yyyy; hour
If applicable: Location of individual interview t_2	home or rheumatology practice/clinic
Reminder for t_2 sent (focus group or individual interview)	dd/mm/yyyy
Reason in case focus group (or individual interview) t_2 was cancelled (if shared)	free text
Respondent gave written informed consent t_2	yes/no
Moderator t_2	name
Observer(s) t_2	name(s)
If applicable: Interviewer t_2	name
Are the (interviewers/) moderators/observers involved as health professionals in the participants' daily clinical care	yes/no
Socio-demographic data: patient-reported t_1	
Date of birth	dd/mm/yyyy
Gender	man, woman, X
Educational level t_1	low, moderate, high

Currently employed t_1	yes/no
Employment status t_1	employed, not employed, retired, housewife/houseman, student
Marital status t_1	single, together unmarried, married, widower, other
Living status t_1	alone, with partner and/or kids, with other persons
Socio-demographic data: patient-reported t_2	
Educational level t_2	low, moderate, high
Currently employed t_2	yes/no
Employment status t_2	employed, not employed, retired, housewife/houseman, student
Marital status t_2	single, together unmarried, married, widower, other
Living status t_2	alone, with partner and/or kids, with other persons
Clinical data: patient-reported data t_1	
VAS general health t_1	100-mm visual analogue scale from best (0/100) to worst (100/100)
VAS pain t_1	100-mm visual analogue scale from best (0/100) to worst (100/100)
VAS fatigue t_1	100-mm visual analogue scale from best (0/100) to worst (100/100)
Key words in preparation of t_1 interview	Key words describing: - the impact of RA on their life - which outcomes of their illness and treatment they considered most important
Clinical data: patient-reported data t_2	
VAS general health t_2	100-mm visual analogue scale from best (0/100) to worst (100/100)
VAS pain t_2	100-mm visual analogue scale from best (0/100) to worst (100/100)
VAS fatigue t_2	100-mm visual analogue scale from best (0/100) to worst (100/100)
Key words in preparation of t_2 focus group (/interview)	Key words describing which outcomes of their illness and treatment they considered most important
Clinical data: health professional-reported data t_1 and t_2 (to be extracted from database/patient file)	
Date of diagnosis	dd/mm/yyyy
Symptom duration	in months, [date of diagnosis - date of symptom onset]
Disease duration	in months; calculated with date of diagnosis
Comorbidity	no severe comorbidities present [yes/no]
Start of treatment	dd/mm/yyyy
Months of treatment experience at t_1	date interview t_1 - date treatment start = between 3-6 months
Months of treatment experience at t_2	date focus group t_2 - date treatment start = at least 1 year

Initial treatment	the local treatment protocol for early RA, free text, no details on dosages
Initial treatment allocated according to clinical prognostic factors	yes/no
Step-down strategy	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
MTX-only step-up	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
MTX + early bridging glucocorticoids	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
○ glucocorticoids starting dose <30mg/day	yes/no
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Early combination therapy classical DMARDs with glucocorticoids	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
○ number of DMARDs included	number
○ glucocorticoids starting dose <30mg/day	yes/no
○ glucocorticoids starting dose ≥30mg/day	yes/no
Early combination therapy classical DMARDs without glucocorticoids	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
○ number of DMARDs included	number
Biologicals as a first hit	yes/no (as initial treatment strategy)
Treatment failure in the first year	yes/no
Treatment failure after 1 year	yes/no
Patient who discontinued treatment (t_1 or t_2; e.g., because of safety reasons, patient's decision)	yes/no

Note. RA: Rheumatoid Arthritis; MTX: Methotrexate; DMARDs: Disease-Modifying Anti-Rheumatic Drugs; VAS: Visual Analog Scale; t_1: time point 1= 3-6 months after start of the initial treatment for early rheumatoid arthritis; t_2: time point 2= 12-18 months after start of the initial treatment for early rheumatoid arthritis.