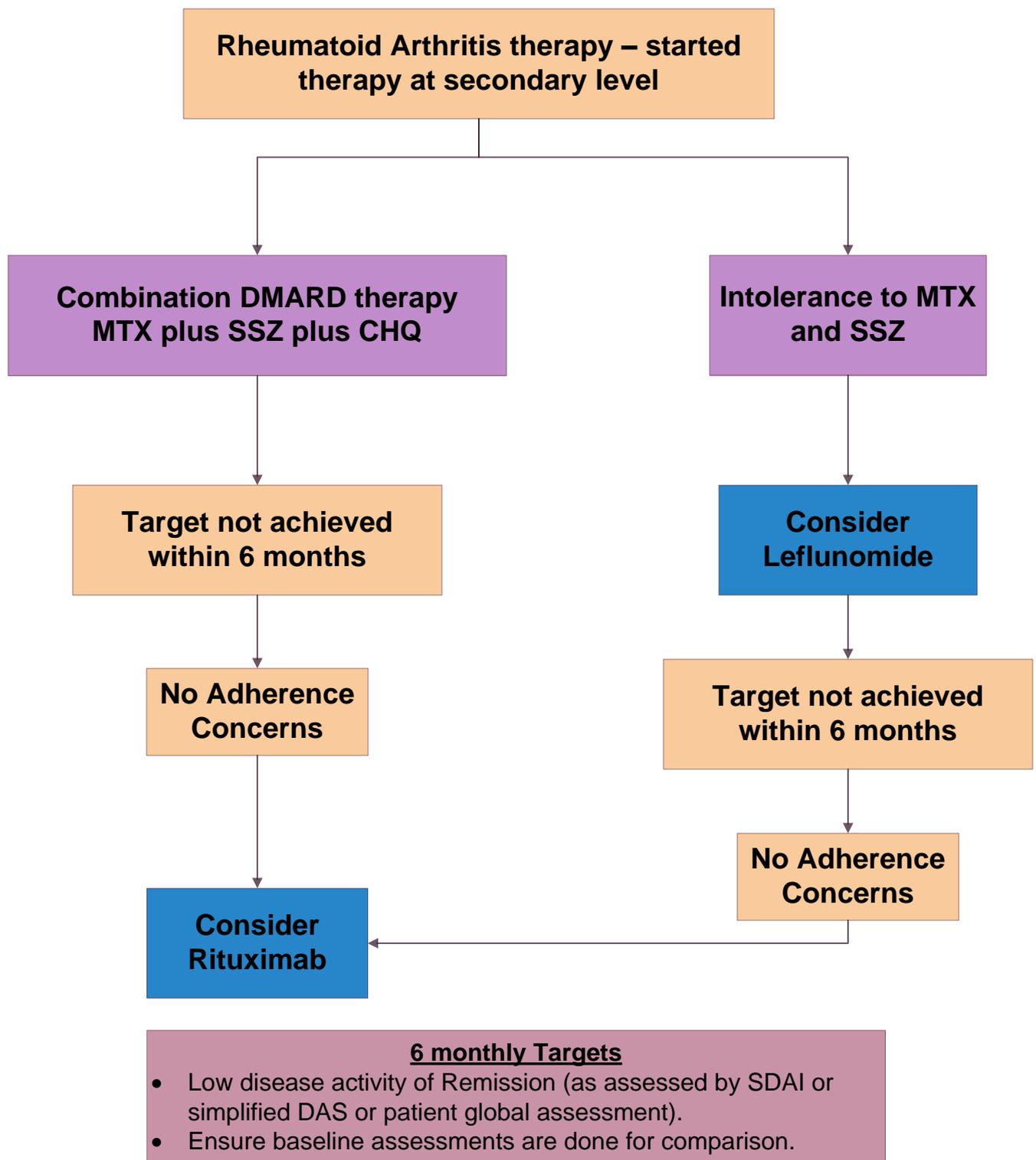


Treatment of Rheumatoid Arthritis Algorithm in the Tertiary Setting



RA – Rheumatoid Arthritis

CI - contraindications

MTX – Methotrexate

SSZ – Sulphasalazine

CHQ – Chloroquine

DMARD – Disease Modifying antirheumatic drugs

SDAI: simplified disease activity index

DAS: disease activity score

ULN: upper limit of normal
eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate

HRCT: high-resolution computed tomography

Methotrexate intolerance:

- Hepatitis (ALT and/or AST > 3 x ULN);
- Pneumonitis (demonstrated on HRCT scan of chest);
- Renal impairment (eGFR < 30 ml/min);
- Hypersensitivity including skin rash and unmanageable neutropenia,
- Gastrointestinal intolerance – intractable nausea and vomiting and/or diarrhoea.

Sulphasalazine intolerance:

- Hypersensitivity to sulphasalazine and sulphonamides as well as salicylates;
- Renal impairment (eGFR < 30ml/min);
- Fibrosing alveolitis (demonstrated on HRCT scan of chest);
- Bone marrow suppression (Grade 3 or 4).