Failure of first TNFi drug
Active rheumatoid arthritis
On maintenance methotrexate

Written and verbal information of the trial and informed consent

Registration (via CTRU 24 hour registration system)

Full eligibility screen (within 4 weeks prior to baseline assessments)

Baseline evaluations
Blood tests, physical examination, disease activity, QoL and Health Economics questionnaires, urine dipstick, concomitant medication

Randomisation - minimisation 1:1:1 (via CTRU 24 hour randomisation system)

Rituximab ('control' arm): Abatacept : Alternative mechanism TNFi*
*(infliximab, adalimumab, etanercept, certolizumab pegol, golimumab)

Definite Treatment Failure

12-week follow-up
SECONDARY ENDPOINTS

24-week follow-up
PRIMARY and SECONDARY endpoints

Treatment Responder

48-week follow-up
SECONDARY ENDPOINTS

Treatment Non-Responder

Observational FOLLOW-UP

Observational FOLLOW-UP

2° Non-response

End of trial follow-up (96 weeks from randomisation)
Record successful switch +/- time to secondary non-response

TNFi=Tumour Necrosis Factor inhibitor; QoL=Quality of Life; CTRU=Clinical Trials and Research Unit