

NICE guidance on biologic drugs for the treatment of Crohn's disease (June 2016)

Note 1: severe active Crohn's disease

Severe active Crohn's disease is defined as very poor general health and one or more symptoms such as:

- weight loss
- fever
- severe abdominal pain
- usually frequent diarrhoeal stools (≥ 3 daily).

People with severe active Crohn's disease may or may not develop new fistulae or have extra-intestinal manifestations of the disease.

This clinical definition normally, but not exclusively, corresponds to:

- Crohn's disease activity index score (CDAI) ≥ 300
- Harvey-Bradshaw score of $\geq 8-9$.

Note 2: less expensive drug

An assessment of the less expensive drug should take into account:

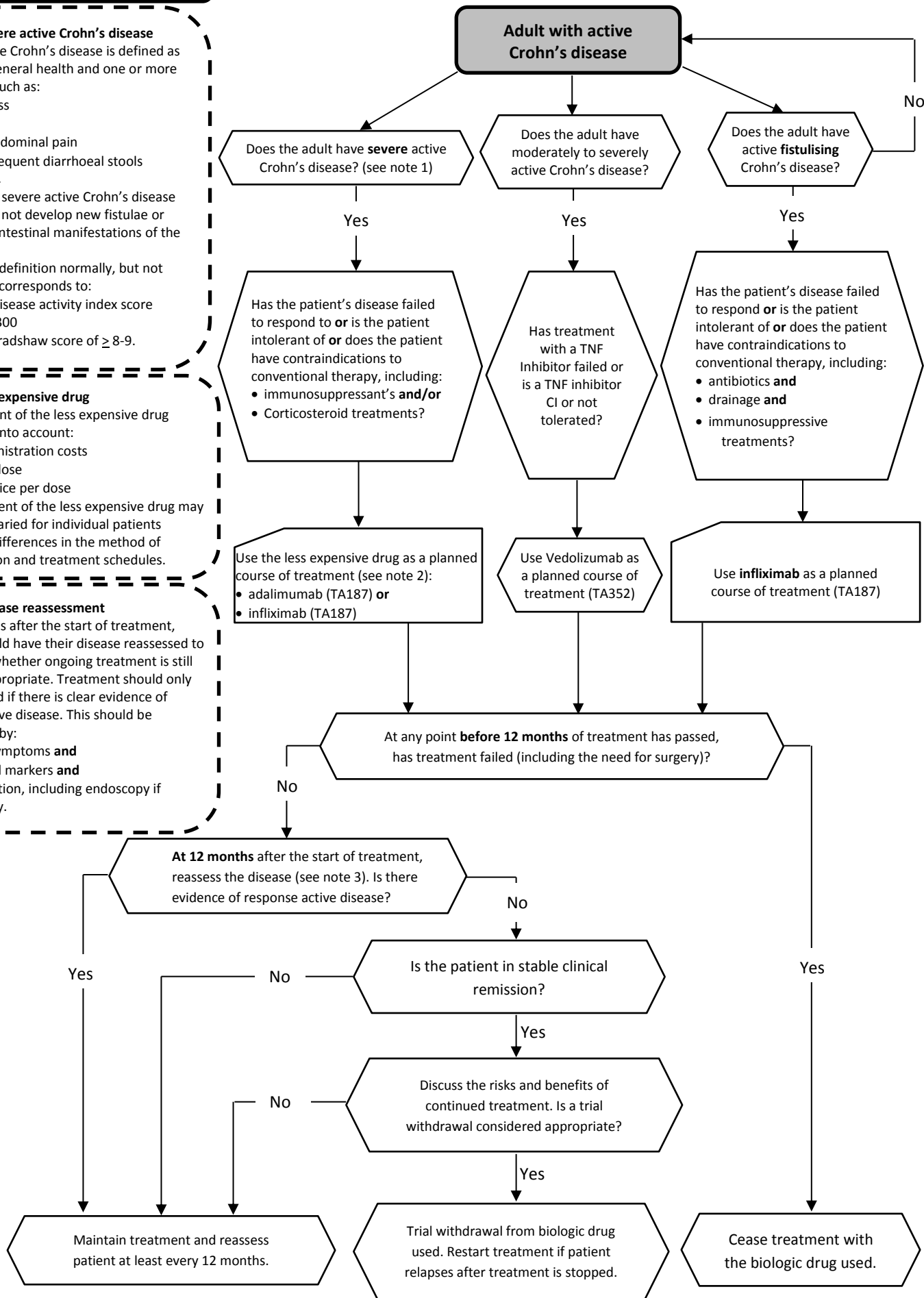
- drug administration costs
- Required dose
- Product price per dose

The assessment of the less expensive drug may need to be varied for individual patients because of differences in the method of administration and treatment schedules.

Note 3: disease reassessment

At 12 months after the start of treatment, people should have their disease reassessed to determine whether ongoing treatment is still clinically appropriate. Treatment should only be continued if there is clear evidence of ongoing active disease. This should be determined by:

- clinical symptoms **and**
- biological markers **and**
- investigation, including endoscopy if necessary.



Sequential use of a TNF inhibitor is currently not recommended by NICE