

## **Supplemental file 1: Focus Group Interview Guide**

A. Introduction of participants: name/ duration of RA / Would you say that, at this moment, your disease activity is as good as gone?

Focus the patients' thoughts by reading out the statement below:

**Think about a time when your arthritis felt as though it was as good as gone**

B How would you describe what you feel when your disease activity is as good as gone?

C What would you say are differences between active arthritis and the absence of disease activity?

D What words would you use to describe this absence of active disease?

E How would you define this 'absence of disease' situation?

'In other words: what are key elements of active disease for you that need to be gone before you will declare your disease activity to be absent?'

F If we could measure this 'absence of disease activity' on a scale, what would the points on the scale say?

G If we could measure this 'absence of disease activity', would duration of this state be of importance to you ?

H How would you feel about 'stopping' your medication when you are in a period of absence of disease activity?