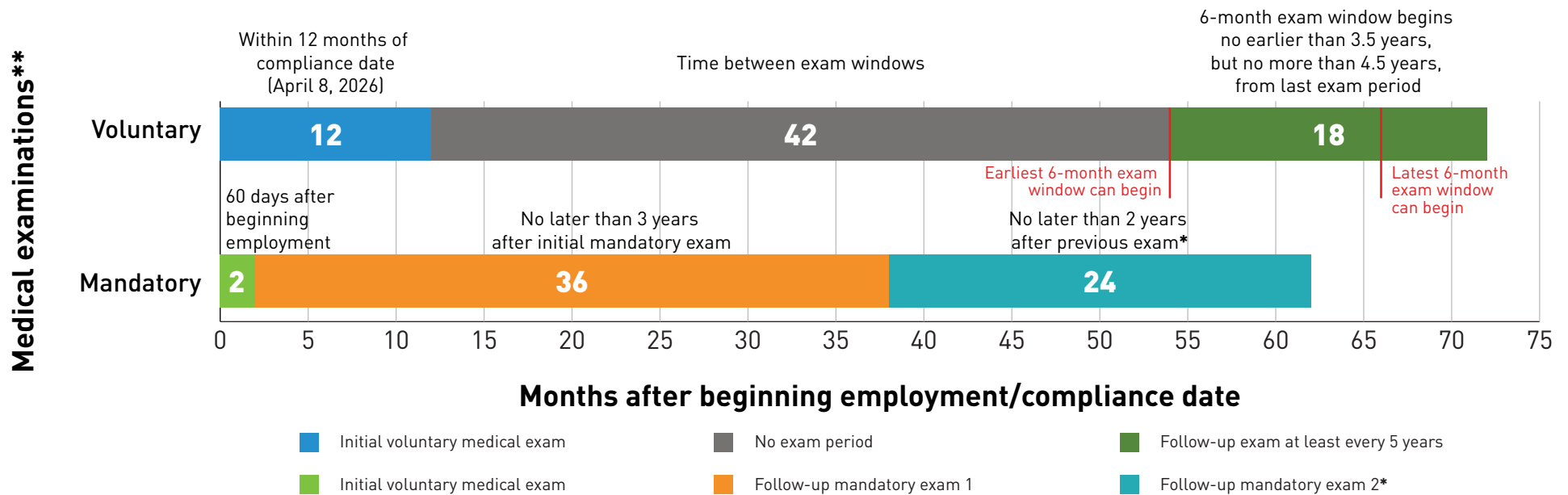


MSHA silica medical examination timeline



*Follow-up medical examination conducted by a specialist no later than two years after the initial three-year follow-up exam IF: chest x-ray shows evidence of pneumoconiosis OR spirometry exam indicates evidence of decreased lung function. After the initial three-year mandatory exam, or the mandatory two-year follow-up as needed, the miner will move into the voluntary five-year medical examination cohort.

**Medical examinations to be performed by a physician or other licensed healthcare professional (PLHCP) [60.15 (a)]. Medical examinations include: medical and work history (with emphasis on past and present exposure to respirable crystalline silica, dust, and other agents affecting respiratory system; any history of respiratory system dysfunction, including diagnoses and symptoms of respiratory disease; history of tuberculosis; and smoking status and history), physical examination with emphasis on respiratory system, chest x-ray classified by a NIOSH-certified B-reader, and a pulmonary function test [60.15 (b)]. The retention period (recordkeeping requirements) for the written determination records received from a PLHCP and the written medical opinion records received from a PLHCP or specialist is the duration of miner’s employment plus 6 months [60.14 (b)] and [60.15 (f)].