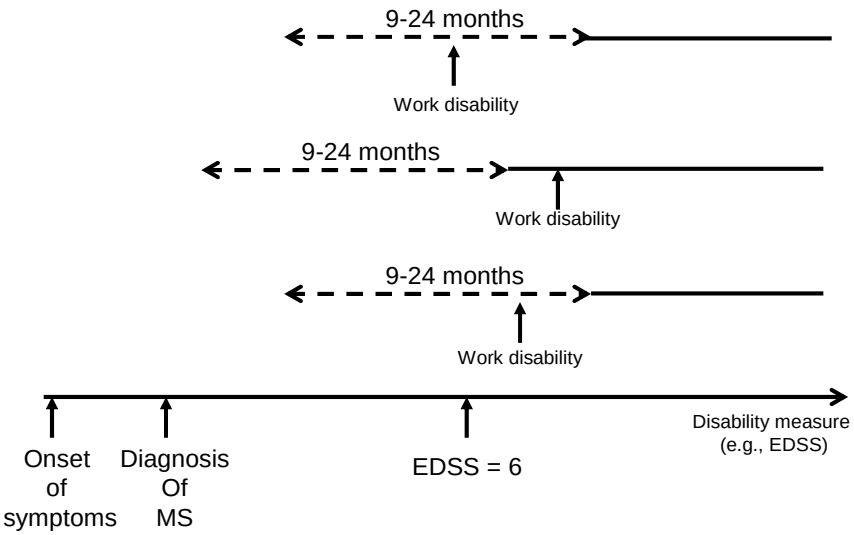
Figure 1. Temporal relationship of pre-disability evaluation and occurrence of work disability



The experiences of three individuals over a 9- to 24-month time frame are depicted. Variability in the point at which an individual becomes unable to work is shown by the variable position of the arrow labeled "work disability." Variability in the time of assessment of prognostic data is depicted by variation in the position of the left-pointing arrow. Variability in the duration of follow up is depicted by variation in the position of the right-pointing arrow. Abbreviations: EDSS = Expanded Disability Status Scale; MS = multiple sclerosis.