

# Reducing bed occupancy and length of stay on Ivory (older adult) ward

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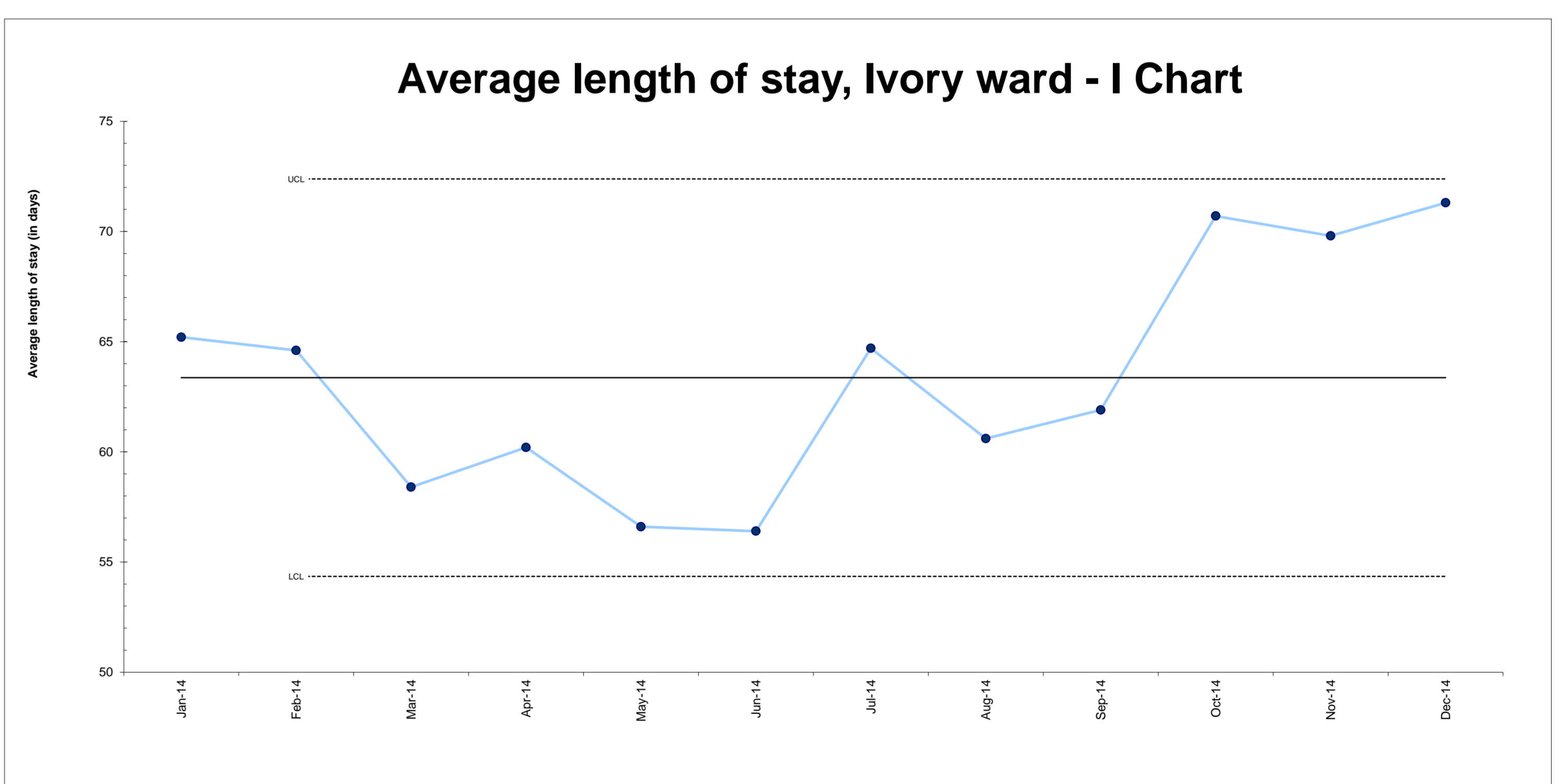
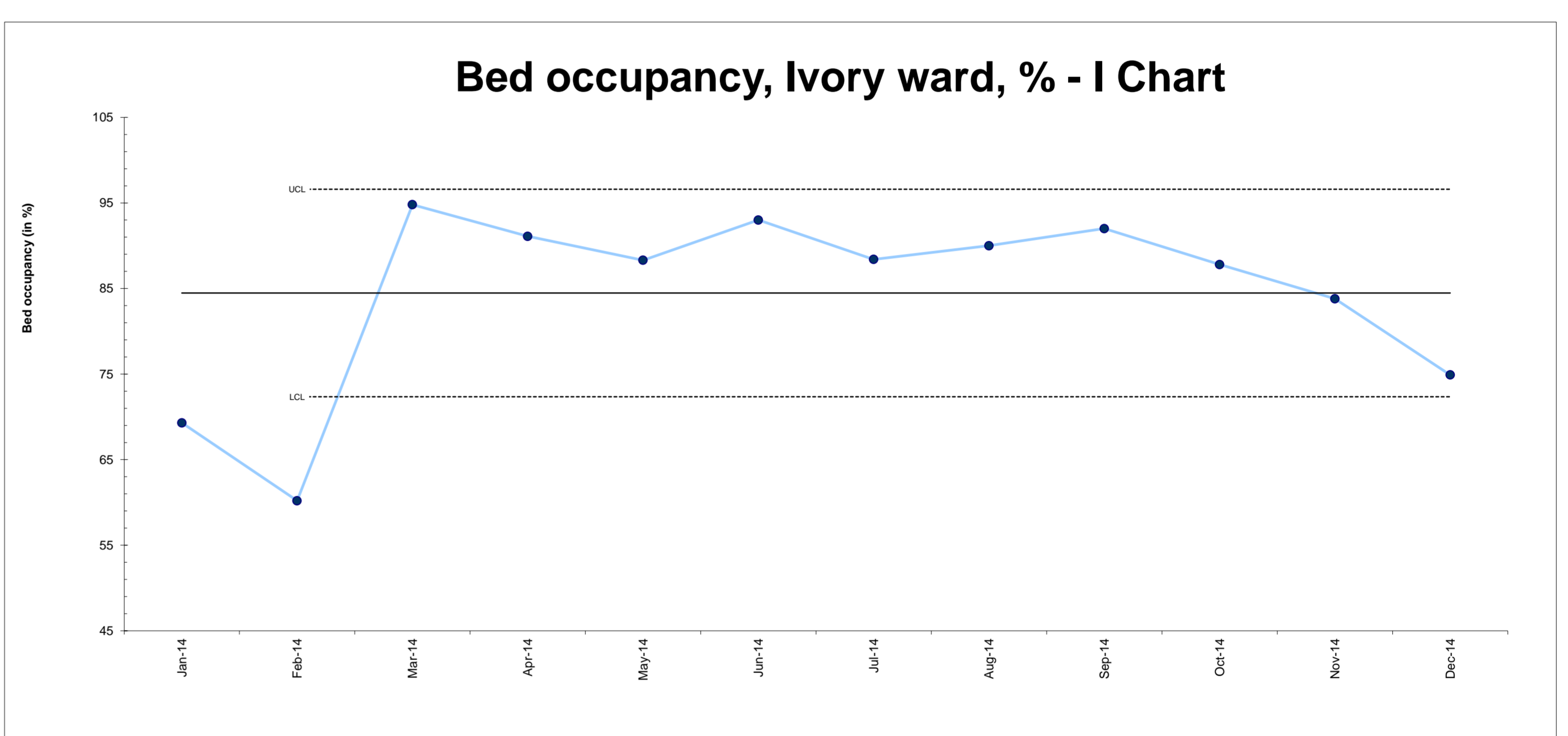
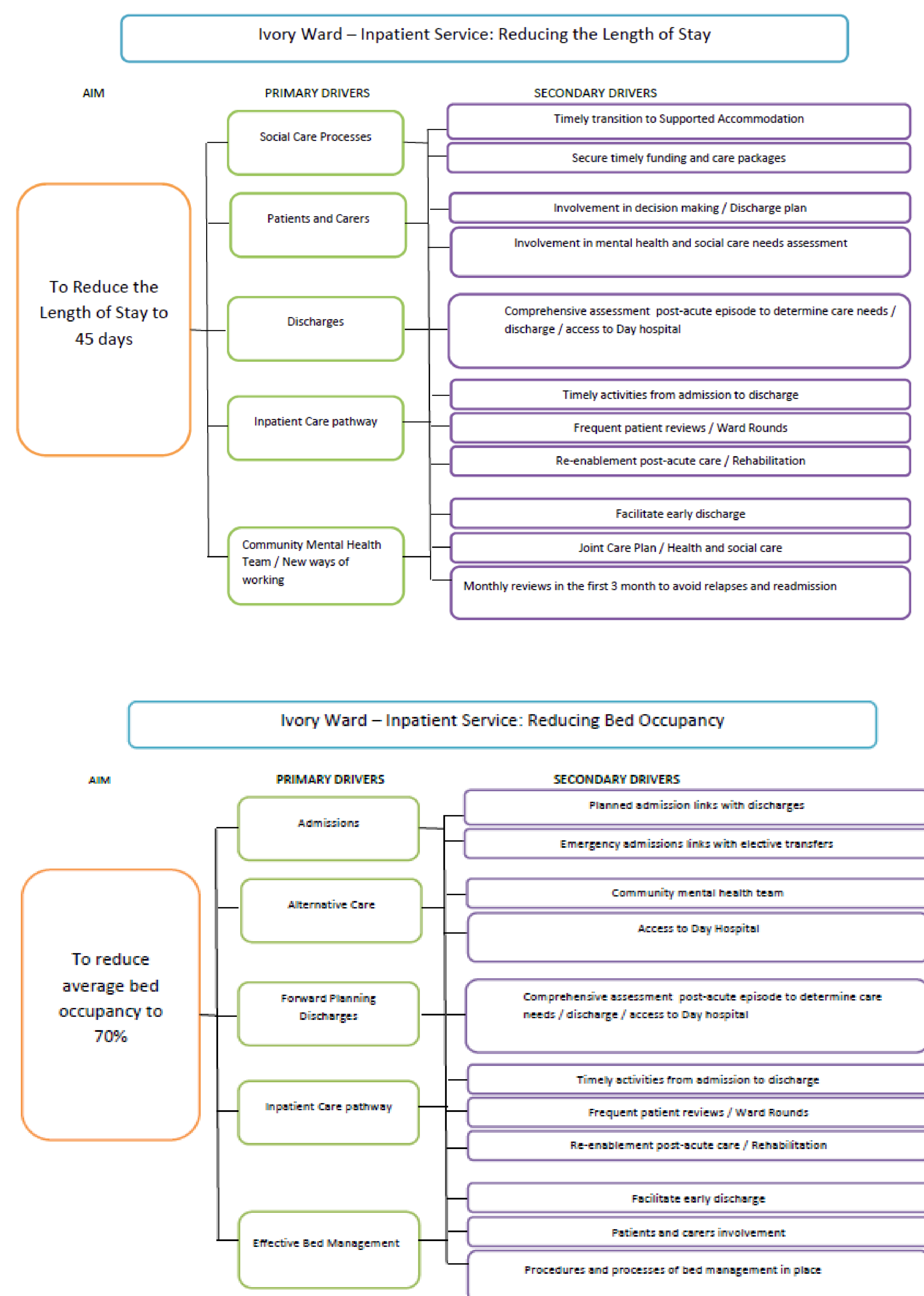
## Background and aims:

Ivory ward is an inpatient unit for older people with mental health needs. The average length of stay on Ivory Ward is currently at 60 days. The average bed occupancy is 100% or more. Length of stay on the ward is extended at present by delayed discharges, and the necessity for complex care needs assessments. We feel that there were elements of the system which we could improve using quality improvement methods. We aim to reduce the average length of stay to 45 days and reduce the bed occupancy to 70% by end of 2015.

## Methods:

We established a multi-professional team and began by mapping the inpatient journey and identifying aspects of the pathway which would feature as drivers. We produced driver diagrams for each aim and used brainstorming to identify change ideas. We have begun testing a care pathway checklist of the necessary assessments and tasks and a digital board where the action plan is monitored live.

## Driver diagrams, identifying aims and drivers:



## Plans:

We plan to test further change ideas including Care Coordinators attending CPA Discharge meetings on Ivory ward, and contributing to the development of Community Care Plans. We have established a baseline data set in a statistical process chart, which will help us to track impact of the our project.

## Learning:

We have learnt that staff need to have ownership of the project, that we will need to develop further skills in running PDSAs and to identify modifiable factors that we can influence.