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[CON Study Committee continues debate on criteria](#) – The Certificate of Need (CON) Study Committee created from a recommendation of the Unified Long Term Care Budget Workgroup met earlier this week to continue discussions on changes to the criteria used to evaluate CON applications. The Department of Health provided the committee with a new rule that combines current rules 3701-12-23, 3701-12-23.2, and 3701-12-20 in order to consolidate the criteria and remove no longer relevant parts of the CON program. During the review of the consolidated rules, the committee agreed to remove the 90 percent occupancy requirement for a facility acquiring beds and changed the requirement that the Director of Health consider the relationship of the application to the State Health Resources Plan unless the plan has been updated within the past three years. The Academy also presented committee members with further changes to the criteria that reduce the focus on costs and more on access. The committee will review these changes at the next meeting scheduled for August 12. For more information or to suggest changes to the CON program, please contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

[HOME Choice rules committee meets to review PASRR rules](#) – The HOME Choice rules committee, comprised of state officials and interest groups, met this week to review Preadmission Screening and Resident Review (PASRR) rules. The group continued to review changes proposed by the administration. The committee has tabled changes to the PAS exemption criteria until all of the PASRR rules have been reviewed. Most of the discussion at the meeting focused on changes to the resident review (RR) rules. The proposed RR rule changes center on explaining the timeline and processes in more detail, including the notification of the agency responsible for doing the RR if the resident is moved after the request but before the review is done. The rules also outline the process to notify ODJFS of an adverse finding for termination of payment. For more information, contact [Chris Murray](#). ([Back to top](#)).

[2008 Annual Convention & Trade Show brochure heading your way soon](#) – Registration materials are headed your way soon for the 2008 Hollywood themed OANH Annual Convention & Trade Show. This annual event will offer great educational sessions and networking opportunities. The 2008 Annual Convention & Trade Show will be held Wednesday - Friday, October 22-24 at the Hilton Columbus at Easton. If you haven't secured your sleeping room for the convention, do so now, as rooms are quickly being reserved. To reserve your room at the Hilton or for more information, contact the Hilton at 800-HILTONS, or 614/414-5000, **Group Code: NUR**. Please mention that you are with The Ohio Academy of Nursing Homes. You may also make your reservation

employer, and let your employer know where you saw this great opportunity! There is no limit for the number of job postings or resumes. For more information, please contact [Christina O'Neal](#). ([Back to top](#)).

Update from CMS – The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued the following information of interest to long-term care providers:

- **Next CMS/SNF Long-Term Care Open Door Forum**

The next CMS/SNF Long-Term Care Open Door Forum is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 1 p.m. Conference leaders will be Sheila Lambowitz and Natalie Hingham. To participate, dial 800/837-1935, conference ID: 53531894. Please dial in at least 15 minutes prior to call start time.

- **E-Prescribing**

An HHS Fact Sheet on e-prescribing was released July 21 and can be [downloaded here](#).

- **DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program**

[Click here](#) to view the message about the DMEPOS Competitive Bidding Program.

- **Change in Hospital Deeming Authority**

The Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 that was passed by Congress on July 15, 2008 removes the provision that allowed for The Joint Commission to be the one deeming authority for hospitals that did not have to reapply for that authority. This was part of the 1965 law. There is a 24 month period before The Joint Commission has to apply for deeming authority. Accredited hospitals will not lose their deemed status.

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COAAA offers various educational opportunities – Did you know that the Central Ohio Area Agencies on Aging has a variety of low cost educational opportunities available? Some topics include “Enhancing Communication and Connection with Older Adults,” “The Paper Trail ~ Pre - Admission Review Training” and “Positive Conflict Resolution.” For more information on these classes go to <http://www.coaaa.org/index.php?go=services&pg=training>. ([Back to top](#)).