

FTC Understanding Competition in Prescription Drug Markets: Entry and Supply Chain
Dynamics Workshop
November 8, 2017
Segment 6: Closing Remarks
Transcript

SUZANNE MUNCK: Thank you, everyone, for all of your participation today. I think we started off the morning with very lofty goals-- understanding drug competition entry in intermediaries. I think that we were able to answer a lot of those questions through our first panel, looking at market structures and then also looking at potential ways in which barriers can be introduced that prevent competition.

We moved into the intermediary phase. And, for me, I think one of the most helpful slides was the explanation of all of the different channels through which the drugs will pass from manufacturer to patient. And so, when we're thinking about this from a policy perspective, oftentimes when I read recommendations for addressing the pharmaceutical system, they'll talk about only one of those chains and you don't link the whole thing together.

So I thought that one of the most helpful parts of today was really enhancing our understanding of the holistic model of the supply chain and all of the components that need to come together to make sure that we're optimizing the system for innovation and for consumers. To that end, Acting Chairman Ohlhausen asked a number of questions in her introductory remarks, and, for me, there were several more questions that were raised throughout the day. So this program definitely enhanced my understanding with respect to these markets, but also raised a number of questions.

And I felt that one of the main benefits of the day was seeing so much data behind points that people were raising. That's incredibly helpful from a policy maker's perspective, both in considering steps that our agency should take, and also in terms of interagency education and participation. So I truly urge all of you to consider the public comment period that will end, again, on December 8.

Please file things with us, please let us know your views-- it helps us understand and analyze the pros and cons. Because, obviously, today, we did not raise issues that are sort of easily resolved and easily understood. It's thorny, it's complicated-- there are a number of different views. And so I urge everyone to consider filing public comments to the extent that you think they will help enhance our understanding.

And so, with that, please join me in giving round of applause to our tremendous panelists who put so much work into today.

[APPLAUSE]

I'd also love to give tremendous credit to our support staff who make these events possible and our technical staff who make everything look good and sound good. And we are just so fortunate to be surrounded by such tremendous professionals, so thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

And with that, I'd like to close today's session. And thank you very much for your participation--
have a lovely afternoon.

Thank you.