

The JFTC's criminal Accusation against Pharmaceutical Wholesalers  
over Coordination of Bids by Japan Community Health Care  
Organization

December 9, 2020  
Japan Fair Trade Commission

The Japan Fair Trade Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "JFTC") filed today a criminal accusation to the Public Prosecutor-General against three pharmaceutical wholesalers, Alfresa Corporation, SUZUKEN Corporation and TOHO PHARMACEUTICAL Corporation, and seven individuals in charge of sales activities and price negotiations for concerned bids in these companies.

The JFTC found that in 2016 and 2018, the accused companies, etc., had conspired and agreed to decide successful bidders and to bid at prices allowing those successful bidders to win comprehensive pharmaceutical procurement contracts for 57 hospitals, operated by the Japan Community Health Care Organization. Based on the agreements, they decided successful bidders for each pharmaceutical category of the comprehensive procurement contracts in advance. The JFTC also found that those activities fell within the article 3 of the Antimonopoly Act, the prohibition of unreasonable restraint of trade.

This announcement is a tentative translation.

Please refer to the original text written in Japanese for more details.