FDA issues Spiriva and Foradil advisory

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The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has issued a public health advisory concerning the correct use of Spiriva and Foradil capsules.

The FDA said it learned many patients are swallowing the capsules, rather than placing them in inhalation devices, as they are intended to be administered.

The medications in the capsules are specifically designed to be inhaled through the Spiriva HandiHaler and Foradil Aerolizer inhalation devices to improve breathing in patients with asthma, and in individuals affected by chronic obstructive lung disease, including chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

Although few patients experience any side effects from swallowing the capsules, the FDA said neither medication will treat a patient's breathing problems if the capsules are swallowed rather than inhaled.

The FDA advised healthcare professionals to discuss with patients how to correctly use the Spiriva HandiHaler or Foradil Aerolizer and will consider, if needed, revising the medications' labeling.