DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ANDA 40-557

Food and Drug Administration
Rockville MD 20857

FEB 23 2005

SICOR Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Attention: Rosalie A. Lowe
19 Hughes
Irvine, CA 92618

Dear Madam:

This is in reference to your abbreviated new drug application (ANDA) dated August 8, 2003, submitted pursuant to Section 505(j) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), for Methylprednisolone Acetate Injectable Suspension USP, 40 mg/mL, and 80 mg/mL, packaged in 40 mg/1 mL and 80 mg/1 mL single-dose vials.

Reference is also made to your amendments dated November 6, and December 19, 2003; April 22, August 18 (2 submissions), September 24, November 10, and December 1, 2004; and January 7, January 18, and February 3, 2005.

We have completed the review of this abbreviated application, and have concluded that the drug is safe and effective for use as recommended in the submitted labeling. Accordingly, the application is approved. The Division of Bioequivalence has determined your Methylprednisolone Acetate Injectable Suspension USP, 40 mg/mL, and 80 mg/mL, to be bioequivalent and, therefore, therapeutically equivalent to the listed drug (Depo-Medrol® Injectable Suspension, 40 mg/mL, and 80 mg/mL, respectively, of Pharmacia & Upjohn Co.). Your dissolution testing should be incorporated into the stability and quality control program using the same method proposed in your application.

Under Section 506A of the Act, certain changes in the conditions described in this abbreviated application require an approved supplemental application before the change may be made.

Postmarketing reporting requirements for this abbreviated application are set forth in 21 CFR 314.80-81 and 314.98. The Office of Generic Drugs should be advised of any change in the marketing status of this drug.

Promotional materials may be submitted to FDA for comment prior to publication or dissemination. Please note that these submissions are voluntary. If you desire comments on proposed launch promotional materials with respect to compliance with applicable regulatory requirements, we recommend you submit, in draft or mock-up form, two copies of both the promotional materials and package insert(s) directly to:

Food and Drug Administration
Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications, HFD-42
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

We call your attention to 21 CFR 314.81(b)(3) which requires that all promotional materials be submitted to the Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (HFD-42) with a completed Form FDA 2253 at the time of their initial use.

Sincerely yours,

Gary Buehler
Director
Office of Generic Drugs
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research