Reviewer's report

Title: A Qualitative Assessment of Practitioner Perspectives Post-Introduction of the First Continuous Professional Competence (CPC) Guidelines for Emergency Medical Technicians in Ireland.

Version: 2 Date: 16 February 2015

Reviewer: Peter O'Meara

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions
You need to address the question of whether these data gathering activities were really focus groups. See Carlsen & Glenton 2011 in BMC Medical Research Methodology for guidance about sample sizes for focus groups.
Paragraph 1 under Discussion seems to belong in Methods.

Minor Compulsory Revisions
Can you tell us a little more about the education and training of EMTs in Ireland.
Lines 293-300 is one very long sentence. Please break this up to add readability.
Some more editing for spelling, etc. required.

Discretionary
It would be good to explain the rationale behind EMTs having mandatory CPD and paramedics not having the same requirement.
I would be sceptical that access to on-road placements with a paramedic service would be a panacea for the challenges of these staff. Where is your evidence for this assertion? What about hospital placements in a controlled environment?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests’.