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: 19 February 2015

Reviewer: Conor Deasy

Reviewer's report:

Major Revision.
As it stands I feel this paper does not add enough to knowledge in the area to justify publication. The paper captures what EMTs in Ireland think of CPD administered through the pre-hospital Regulator. I feel the story needs more; perhaps if the investigators completed the story by feeding back to the Regulator their findings and suggestions and then describing what was done to address these it would then be a story for other jurisdictions to learn from.

Minor Essential Revisions.
Line 44 replace 'governance/administration' with 'governance and administration'
Line 47 to 51. Needs to re-worded and re-formatted.
Line 70 replace issue with issuing
line 76 - there is an overuse of the colon and semicolon throughout the paper, for example in this instance.
Line 94 - was there a reason for not including doctors as a healthcare profession with CPD - if so worth stating.
Line 110 - decide on either 'approximately' or 'at least'
Line 174 the word current does not make sense
Line 220 - 'informational focal point' - what is this?
Line 222 - this sentence should be restructured.
Line 250 - there is an unnecessary question mark
Line 262 'Discriminating against people who cannot read or write' - is this an issue for EMTs in Ireland? If not, leave it out I would say.
Line 268 unsatisfactory or objectionable - very negative wording - perhaps consider using terminology such as 'challenging or questionable'
line 313.
Line 350 missing full stop (.)

The overall tone of this paper feels unduly like a group of EMTs 'moaning' about the state of play with CPD administration through PHECC in Ireland. They may well have just reason however, I think for the readership from other jurisdictions
to get something meaningful out of this paper the suggestions under major revision should be considered.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I am deputy medical director of the National Ambulance Service of Ireland. As part of that role, I sit on the medical advisory board of the pre-hospital emergency council.