

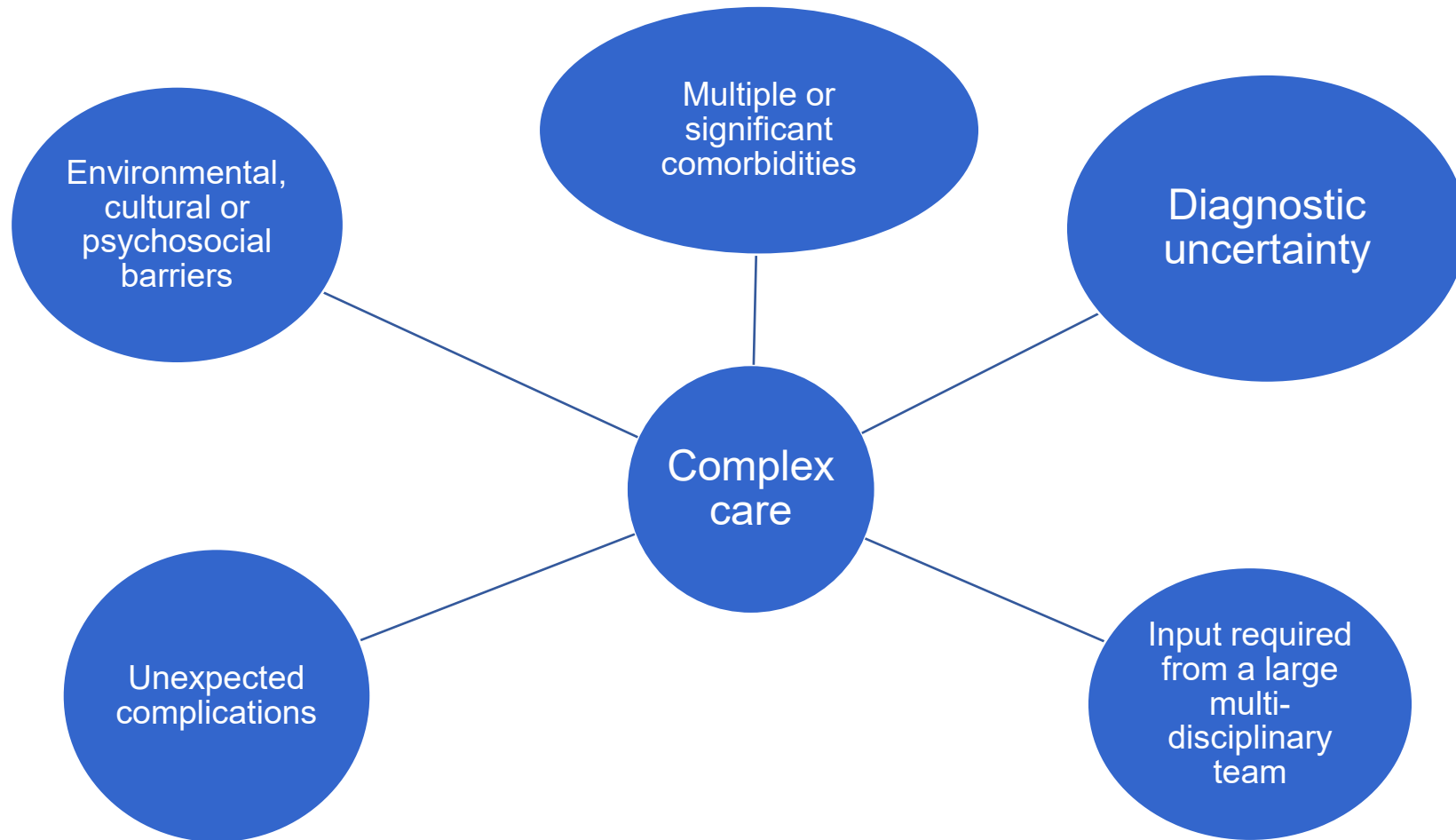
Training principle 2:  
**Complex care provides rich  
learning opportunities**

# Introduction to this principle

- In paediatrics we frequently come across **complex cases**
- These cases can be both the most interesting and frustrating parts of our job and they tend to push us outside of our comfort zone
- It is important to reflect on these cases - complex care provides rich and diverse learning opportunities
- We often find these cases offer us several learning points and help shape us into more confident, considerate and holistic doctors

# Step 1: Select your case

Examples of factors that make care complex may include...



# Step 2: Reflect on what you learned from the case

- Consider what it was about the case that you found challenging and ask yourself why this was
- Did you see anybody involved in the case do something particularly well that you might change your approach in future?
- Did you gain a different perspective by listening to the patient and/or family's experience?
- Did you have an opportunity to carry out a role in the case that was different to your usual role?
- Did you have an opportunity to carry out a procedure or examination in which you were less confident?

# Step 3: Translate your experience into a learning opportunity

- The role of the trainer is to encourage the trainee to consider the wider learning points from the case
- The trainer may complete a mini-CEX or ACAT, if the trainee was directly observed managing an aspect of the case or a CBD if discussing case retrospectively – find out more about assessment methods at [www.rcpch.ac.uk/assessment-guide](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/assessment-guide)
- A DOC or HAT may also be a useful way of encouraging the trainee to develop skills in communication of complex cases with other professionals
- For trainees, personal reflection on complex cases can be beneficial, particularly in looking at human factors and how they may have influenced your approach

# Step 4: Link to the curriculum

- Look at the Progress curriculum and link your assessment to the relevant domains
- It's worth looking through all domains to see if there are any aspects of your complex case that you hadn't considered
- **Top tip:** It is often complex cases that provide opportunities to cover domains that you have struggled to find links for!

See our case studies and more  
on the RCPCH website

[www.rcpch.ac.uk/training-principle-2](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/training-principle-2)

[www.rcpch.ac.uk/progressplus](http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/progressplus)

 **RCPCH Progress+**  
Paediatric training for excellence

