

The user interface of the MDES is represented by the CLIPS dialog window. The system has a file saved as CLIPS file (example, malaria.clp). The file contains the knowledge base, which is a combination of questions a physician is expected to ask a patient who is suspected of having malaria or its related diseases. This is compiled as a program in CLIPS and when executed, produces a diagnosis as an end result, viz., malaria or any of its related diseases (i.e. malaria, dengue fever, enteric fever, African trypanosomiasis or pulmonary tuberculosis), depending on user's response to the combination of questions. The system takes for granted that a clinical assessment has been done by the physician on the patient. So it's the results of the clinical assessments (clinical signs, symptoms and investigation results) that make up the knowledge base. The system follows a diagnostic pattern following user's responses to the combination of questions asked by the system. Each time the user runs the system, he clicks the CLIPS icon and the CLIPS dialog window opens. He then loads the file containing the combination of questions on malaria and related diseases by typing (load "filename.clp"). The next command typed is (run). This executes the program "filename.clp" loaded into the CLIPS interpreter. The responses of the user with Y (Yes) or N (No) will determine what the final diagnosis from the system will be